

THE ATHENÆUM

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Dublin Castle, October 8, 1900.

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Mr. Clowes begins his volume with a chapter on the civil administration of the navy, and in this has necessarily to speak of the enormous evils existing at the beginning of the century, and of the fierce war which the Earl of St. Vincent waged against them. He explains—we think rightly—the

bitter outcry which was raised against him as follows:—

"St. Vincent's determination to effect reform, and his unyielding advocacy of a purer system, were not easily forgiven him by his political and service enemies. Still less were they forgiven him by the large army of people who had profited under the old system, and many of whom he had caused to suffer for their dishonesty. Inspired, it must be feared, more by the baffled speculators than by any sincere conviction, Pitt attempted in March, 1804, to fix upon the great seaman himself the responsibility for the abominable state of things that had been found to exist. The charge could not be made good. St. Vincent was not, of course, responsible. Yet in his anxiety to benefit his country and the service which he loved he had undoubtedly on several occasions gone to unwise lengths, and his stern inflexibility raised up for him so many enemies that, when the Addington ministry fell, he went from office followed by a storm of virulent abuse such as has rarely been showered upon an upright man. He had failed, it would seem, to adequately grasp the fact that the roots of corruption extended to high places as well as to low ones. He had made the mistake of supposing that all men of rank and high office were as honest as himself; and, directly or indirectly, it was these men who thwarted him, and who would, had they been able, have ruined him."

This feeling against St. Vincent has produced one lasting result, which many approve of and many deplore, in both cases without inquiring into or considering its origin. From the earliest appointment of commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral down to the time of St. Vincent it was not unusual for the First Lord to be a naval officer. Herbert, Russell, Byng, Wager, Anson, Saunders, Hawke, Keppel, and Howe are among those who held the post. With the exception of Barham in 1805, no naval officer has held it since St. Vincent's resignation, the reason now generally assigned being that the First Lord ought before everything to be a politician. This had not been previously found out, and the coincidence of the dates suggests that the real reason was—in its origin, at any rate—the strong objection that influential speculators had to a chief who knew where to look for their misdeeds and how to expose them. Throughout the last century the naval departments had been sinks of iniquity, but they had never been so bad as under civil lords who utilized the position for party purposes and the purchase of Parliamentary votes.

In writing of the discipline and internal economy of the fleet during the period of the war Mr. Clowes attaches great weight to the statements of a little book published in 1836, and professing to be the "Recollections" of a seaman of the *Revenge* from 1805 to 1811. It seems quite clear that he assigns too much importance to this. It is admitted that at no time in the history of our navy was the discipline so severe—brutal even—as it was then, for at no time were our ships manned with such base material. When outcasts and convicts were put on board by the hundred, gentle means would probably have been useless, and certainly contrary to the sense of the age, but there seems to be nothing that warrants the trust that Mr. Clowes has put in this highly spiced narrative. That this particular seaman—who, if he had a real existence, which

is highly problematical, was a bit of a sea-lawyer—had a bad time of it may be conceded; but he seems to have compiled his book by putting together all the sensational stories he could hear of. Taken singly, the stories may be true; collectively, they convey a grossly exaggerated idea of the state of things.

Mr. Clowes's narrative of the campaign of 1805, culminating in the battle of Trafalgar, is, on the whole, well told, though at excessive length and spun out by pages of irrelevant matter—the funeral of Nelson, the gifts to Nelson's family, Emma and Horatia—surely out of place in the history of the Royal Navy. His comments on the lessons of the campaign are less happy than the story of it. He seems to consider that the result was mainly, if not solely, due to good luck, and as we cannot count on always having luck on our side we ought to be prepared for widely different possibilities. His contention is based on a curious series of "ifs":—

"If Napoleon had succeeded in carrying out the naval combinations which he ordered, and if his admirals had invariably obeyed him, it is probable that the allies might have found themselves in such overwhelming force on the occasion of the decisive battle, that not even Nelson could have saved Britain from defeat. If [Napoleon's] schemes had been carried out with precision, or if, in March, 1805, Ganteaume had dared to leave Brest with 21 sail of the line and had fallen upon Cornwallis, who had then with him only about 16; or if Salcedo, instead of remaining inactive at Cartagena, had joined Villeneuve on April 6th, 1805; or if, after his return from the West Indies and his action with Calder, Villeneuve had not put in to Vigo and Ferrol, thence proceeding to Cadiz instead of to Brest and the Channel, as Napoleon had directed—then the victory of Trafalgar might have been humanly impossible and the plans of invasion might have been carried forward. If Villeneuve had been active and energetic, he might have put to sea from Ferrol on August 2nd with 29 sail and caught Calder outside with only nine. Even on the very eve of the battle Villeneuve might have left Cadiz and crushed or driven off Collingwood before the arrival of Nelson."

All which amounts to saying that if Nelson and Cornwallis had been inexperienced, timid, nerveless blunderers, and if the French admirals had been men of exceptional genius and force of character, things might have been very different. But "ifs" and "might have beens" are not history—the experience, skill, and character of Nelson and Cornwallis are; so also are Villeneuve's ineptitude, Ganteaume's want of initiative, and Napoleon's ignorance of naval affairs; and the result proved that Nelson and Cornwallis judged rightly. Mr. Clowes quotes Napoleon as describing Cornwallis's conduct as an *insigne bêtise*, and by inference approves of the criticism. The detaching Calder off Ferrol, he says, "certainly was a strategical blunder." Frankly, we believe Cornwallis to have been a better judge than either Napoleon or Mr. Clowes.

When he bids adieu to the often described and much discussed campaign of 1805 Mr. Clowes reverts to his practice in former volumes of a chronological arrangement and adoption of the material readiest to hand. Page after page is sometimes little more than a modification of the language of James, whose accounts of facts and judg-

ments are repeated as if they were the outcome of direct research or opinion formed from it. Thus the story of Duckworth's passage of the Dardanelles and of his inaction in the Sea of Marmora is—unfavourable criticism and all—repeated from James. It is quite permissible to think that Duckworth was wanting in decision, though it is certain that he was harassed by confused and contradictory instructions; but it is hardly permissible to take James's opinion without acknowledgment and give it forth as the mature judgment of later years. Similarly the account of Ganteaume's cruise in the Mediterranean in February and March, 1808, and of Collingwood's neglect to look for him, is taken almost verbatim from James, though Mr. Clowes does add:—

"Thus a chance of bringing the enemy to action was lost. It must, however, be admitted that Collingwood does not appear to have taken all the precautions which he might have taken for ensuring that news should promptly reach him of the motions of the French. He did not suffer from that terrible lack of frigates which so often hampered and distressed Nelson; and there can be little doubt that, had he utilized his scouts as Nelson would have utilized them, Ganteaume would have hardly carried his fleet back to Toulon."

But this last opinion is based on the hypothesis that Collingwood, who could not utilize his frigates, would at least have utilized his ships of the line as Nelson would have utilized them. We have nothing to convince us that he would have done so. This was, in fact, Collingwood's one opportunity; he missed it, and with it all claim to be considered as in the first rank of naval commanders.

We have on former occasions dwelt on the unscientific nature of Mr. Clowes's method—imitated from James—of dividing events into two categories, major and minor. He still adheres to this, in spite of its inconveniences. Thus the capture of the *Didon* by the *Phoenix* is treated as a minor event, and follows—at a distance of 250 pages—the movements of the great fleets which were controlled by it. The influence which this capture had in bringing about Villeneuve's retreat to Cadiz is altogether lost sight of. Even amongst themselves the minor events hop about the world, from east to west or from north to south, in bewildering confusion, out of which it is somewhat difficult to arrive at a clear understanding of the way in which they affected the course of the war; and thus the work, whilst forming in many ways a most excellent dictionary of reference—the better as each volume has a full index—has but feeble claim to be considered as a history, in the truest sense of the word. It is, too, written in a style careless and embarrassed to a degree, which is extraordinary as coming from a man of Mr. Clowes's experience. He particularly affects the split infinitive, an abomination that ought to be confined to the halfpenny newspaper or the penny novelette; and his words and sentences are too often injudiciously chosen or confusedly put together. Here is an instance:—

"[Harvey's] rash conduct appears to have been to a large extent instigated by some vague dislike to Gambier's private character, for, speaking of the Commander-in-Chief to Lord Cochrane in the cabin of the Captain of the

Fleet, he said: 'I am no canting Methodist, no hypocrite, nor a psalm-singer. I do not cheat old women out of their estates by hypocrisy and canting.'"

If Mr. Clowes considers this "vague," it would be interesting to know what is his idea of plain speaking.

Writ in Barracks. By Edgar Wallace. (Methuen & Co.)

MANY readers on turning the last pages of Mr. Wallace's book will be prone to throw it aside with a shrug of the shoulder, and the verdict "Crass plagiarism." Yet this summing-up of Mr. Wallace's work is most unfair, though the shoulder-shrugging critic may be able to back up his opinion by lines more than two and more than three taken "slap away" from the work of the man who has inspired Mr. Wallace in his verses, and, in one way or another, has likewise inspired half our empire.

Could this book have been published twenty years later, when the world has grown accustomed to the ring of the new metal, its author need not have feared the charge of plagiarism. In those days it will be said of such verses as these that they are "of the school" of Kipling, and such writers will be styled not plagiarists, but disciples. For, after all, it is when work goes home to men's hearts that they seek to imitate it; and when a man's songs have gone home to the hearts of other poets as well as of mere versifiers, so that they must try whether what they have to say cannot best be said in this new language, then we say that he has founded a school. Thus in their day did Wordsworth, Byron, Tennyson, Browning. A young craftsman must work in some medium—one in a million discovers a new material and works it, and then others try their hand at it; but your ordinary maker of verses must needs choose some stuff which master-hands have set the fashion of working. And if a man is to write about soldiering it is as well that he should write, to the best of his ability, after the manner of Mr. Kipling, rather than after the manner of Mr. Alfred Austin. For whether we like it or not (and some of us like it no better than our fathers liked the style of young Alfred Tennyson), Mr. Kipling has created a style—has invented a medium—and, as a necessary consequence, has founded a school. For long and long enough there will be poems after the manner of Kipling, just as we have had poems after the manner of Tennyson, and, from the more ambitious and less skilful of our poetings, poems after the close, obscure manner of Browning. We may as well make up our minds to it; and, after all, perhaps it will really be more annoying to Mr. Kipling than to us. Founding a school is not all roses and laurels: when you have done a new thing in a new way, and shown the world how it is done, when, following the breathless hush of your achievement's recognition, a hundred shrill voices rise squeaking, "Oh, is *that* how it's done? I can do that," and forthwith proceed to try, the master may well find some of his rose-leaves crumpled, some of his laurels browned. But Mr. Kipling may for the present disregard the "I can do that" of his imitators—for he is well ahead of them.

Mr. Wallace writes in an interesting, if rather slack-mouthed way about things soldierly, and his imitation of his great exemplar is so childlike and frank that one hardly smiles at it, or, smiling, smiles kindly.

'Make your own Arrangements' is a fair sample of the author's style. We quote two verses:—

When the depôt soldier's on parade 'e sparkles an 'e shines,
When the depôt soldier's drillin' 'e must make each motion "tell,"
When the depôt soldier's marchin' 'e must march on drill-book lines;
'E 'as got a drill-instructor, an' 'e does it very well.
But it's make your own arrangements! Make your own arrangements!
When the camp is rushed at midnight an' you 're fallin' in—to die!
O there ain't no drill-rules set there,
But it's take your gun—an' get there!
When you make your own arrangements, you must grab your belt an' fly!

When the depôt soldier sickens, when the depôt soldier dies,
'E 'is buried by 'is comrades in the regulation style,
'E is covered by an ensign of the regulation size,
An' 'e gets a firin' party made of thirteen rank an' file.
But it's make your own arrangements! Make your own arrangements!
When the Colonel reads the service by a guard-room lantern light,
When in silent rows you 've laid 'em
In a trench your bay'nets made 'em,
O it's make your own arrangements when you bury in the night.

It will be seen from this example that Mr. Wallace's work lacks grasp as well as finish. Even in soldier songs one does not care for pronouns whose substantives have been mislaid. But other things may be noted also—earnestness, to wit, and a sense of the grim humour and the grim horror of war. Throughout the book there is evidence of the possession of certain vital qualities. Mr. Wallace knows what he is talking about, and the poems read as though they had been written for the joy of writing them, to please the man himself and his chosen friends, not "for publication."

'Tommy to his Laureate' is, of course, addressed to Mr. Kipling; it rings true, and that merit counterbalances its manifest faults. It were a thankless task to point out the lines which Mr. Wallace has annexed from his prototype. Readers should buy the book and make the search for themselves; the passages in question jump to the eyes. They will find, as we have hinted, a good deal besides, and this book will always be interesting as one of the earliest examples of the new Kipling school, and, so far, the best of such examples. That Mr. Wallace could do very much better work than this is, we think, abundantly evident. Let us hope that he will do it, and give the master a disciple of whom even such a master may be proud.

Les Bibliothèques Universitaires Allemandes et leur Organisation. Par Jules Laude. (Paris, Bouillon.)

M. JULES LAUDE, the Librarian of the Clermont University, has done a very wise act in reprinting in an independent form the exhaustive essay on the university libraries of Germany which he contributed to a recent issue of the *Revue des Bibliothèques*. Confined to the *Revue*, it was in danger of the oblivion

which overtakes so many valuable monographs; in its new form, and printed on thick paper, it forms a substantial tract of seventy pages. There is an extensive literature on the subject of German libraries, but M. Laude has condensed into his monograph practically all the available information indicated by his title. He resists the strong temptation to set up a comparison between library work in France, where it is ranked as a matter of secondary importance, and in Germany, where such institutions play a conspicuous part in public life. There can be no doubt that during the last twenty-five or thirty years library work in Germany has made most rapid progress; its voluminous literature alone would sufficiently prove that to any one who has never been inside a German library, and the purchase *en bloc* of the magnificent Hamilton Palace collection of MSS. demonstrates that the German authorities are as keen in their search after books of beauty and historic interest as after books of pure utility. They realize that money spent in this manner not only is not lost, but contributes to the development of Germany as a nation as well as to its progress and to its greatness. Until 1870 the university libraries were directed by the professors in conjunction with the librarians—an extremely economical system which, nevertheless, was full of difficulties, particularly as the librarians were usually men with no special training for their work, who regarded their appointments as sinecures, and stuck to their posts until death carried them off. Disorder and incompetence were, therefore, the chief characteristics of the average German university library. One of the earliest and most important moves in the right direction was the appointment of Dr. Barack, Librarian of the Court at Donaueschingen, to the headship of the new library the Germans founded at Strasbourg in place of that they had burnt. It has, in fact, become recognized that a good professor does not make a good manager of books. The librarians themselves agitated in 1891 against the "assistants" who were thrust upon them, and two years later the Prussian Government took the matter in hand and indicated the qualifications necessary for appointments to university libraries; these appeared in the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, 1894, and in the *Revue des Bibliothèques* in 1895.

The budget of the personnel of the Prussian libraries in 1897-8 was 300,656 marks, as against 183,710 marks in 1883-4. The German librarians are not overpaid, the lower ranks in the provinces, indeed, receiving but 540 to 660 marks. Even the director of the library at Strasbourg only receives 9,000 marks. In the way of allowances for the purchase of new books the university library of Strasbourg comes an easy first with 58,000 marks, followed by Göttingen with 42,110 marks, and Leipzig with 40,000. As a general rule all the purchasing is now done exclusively by the librarian, to whom new publications are submitted by the local booksellers; in the case of special books the advice of a professor is solicited. The university libraries are rich not only in modern, but also in old books. That at Strasbourg, for

instance, has 730,000, of which 2,000 are incunabula and 3,870 MSS.; Göttingen has 500,000 volumes, of which 5,000 are incunabula and nearly 6,000 MSS. The fearful disaster at Strasbourg caused by the furious bombardment of 1870 accounts for the comparatively small number of incunabula and MSS. there. Admission to most of the German university libraries is a very easy matter; students properly accredited are allowed to take ten or a dozen books out at one time. M. Laude points out that it is "par le prêt à domicile beaucoup plus que par la lecture sur place qu'on use en Allemagne des bibliothèques universitaires."

There are very many points in M. Laude's excellent monograph to which attention might be called if space permitted. "Argent, travail, autonomie, discipline, c'est ce qu'on voit dans les bibliothèques académiques d'Allemagne et ce qui est la condition de leur prospérité," he observes in his concluding paragraph, sentiments with which probably no one will quarrel. The conductors of the *Library* might do worse than publish a full translation of this admirable essay in their own pages.

Letters received by the East India Company from its Servants in the East.—Vol. IV. 1616. Edited by William Foster. (Sampson Low & Co.)

WHEN the first volume of this series was issued, we stated (*Athen.* No. 3620) that Sir Henry Yule, who examined the Court Books, declared their publication would be an endless task. There are forty volumes, and it would take a century to edit them as they should be edited. The proposal of Mr. Danvers was to issue a first series which will, it is estimated, occupy ten volumes, and contain a narrative of events from 1603, the date of the earliest volume extant, to about 1619. In our review we wrote:—

"These volumes will take at least ten years to issue. If the records of the India Office are to be edited on this scale, the future historian of the Indian empire will have to reach the ripe age of Methuselah before he can commence his work."

In the introduction to the present volume it is stated that the documents printed "cover the calendar year 1616." As the factories grew in importance the letters sent home grew in number and length, and it would not be a surprise if the next volume covered only six months of the calendar year 1617. In our remarks on the first volume we questioned the wisdom of going over ground which had been trodden by so experienced an antiquary as Mr. Sainsbury. In the present volume not only is there included matter which is to be found in Mr. Sainsbury's calendar, but seven of Sir Thomas Roe's letters have been included, nearly all of which have been printed, either in full or to a considerable extent, in Mr. Foster's exhaustive and scholarly edition of Roe's 'Embassy.' Mr. Foster has had the difficult task of building on a bad foundation. The idea seems to have been, take a volume of records, have them copied and printed, add an introduction and a few notes. But for records to be useful to the historian they must be edited with brains, and the editor must

have the liberty of using those brains. A good number of documents in the present volume might have been omitted, and so room made for more interesting matter from other collections in the India Office. As not a single letter from Surat occurs in the Court Books during the period, the editor has been compelled to extract from the letter-book for 1616-17, and he prints six most interesting letters. In the next volume we trust he will exercise his sound judgment, not only in adding, but in rejecting.

In the present section, although there are a certain number of documents which might have been left out, there is a good deal of new matter which can hardly fail to be of use and interest to the historian. Dr. Gardiner in his history says "the information on Castleton's voyage is extremely imperfect," but in the present volume is to be found a full explanation of Samuel Castleton's expedition to the Moluccas, which nearly led to hostilities between the English and the Dutch, and the documents correct in some degree Dr. Gardiner's narrative.

The last volume threw fresh light on the fight in the roadstead at Swalley, near Surat, with the Portuguese armada, which made the natives regard our power with so much respect that our rights of trade were at last formally recognized by the Viceroy of Gujerat, and in the year 1613 a charter was granted by the Great Moghul which confirmed the privileges granted to the English by his representatives. In 1618 Sir Thomas Roe, James I.'s Ambassador at the Court of the Moghul Emperor, made a treaty with the Emperor's third son, Prince Khurram, afterwards the famous Shah Jehan, to whom had been assigned by his father the government of Surat. By this treaty the English gained the right of building a house, bearing arms, exercising their own religion freely, and settling their own disputes among themselves. The modest house at Surat was the first permanent connexion of the English with India. On February 28th, 1616, a consultation was held on the sands in the road of Swalley

"at which it was determined that the factories in the Mogul's dominions should be four in number: Ahmadabad, of which John Brown was to be chief; Burhānpur, placed under Nicholas Baugham; Ajmere and Agra, grouped together as the Court factory under William Biddulph; and finally Surat, the head of which, Thomas Kerredge, was also to be 'principal factor' over the whole four, as well as over any other settlements that might be established in the same parts."

The same year the title of President was given to Thomas Kerredge by his own subordinates. The English factory at Surat, however, nearly came to an untimely end owing to an untoward incident. The factors had proposed, "for the better order in our house, as calling our people to prayers," &c., to set up a small bell of some eight pounds weight. The carpenter of the admiral presented the President with a small frame in form of a turret "about the bigness of a ship's lantern," which he set on the outside of the common-hall or meeting-place, which was a part of the house. Kerredge writes:—

"It being thus set up (myself absent), the Cutwall (native police superintendent) came to know what it meant; which having understood,

he returned to the Governor with answer; whereat the whole multitude gathered and made an outcry to the Governor that their town was lost, and that infidels had taken possession thereof, alleging that the sign of the cross (which was nothing but a small vane with the Company's mark) was an especial token of victory and winning the town. Which the Governor slighting, some of the chiefs (who were the first motives of this idle bruit) with the whole multitude flocked to his house, exclaiming against him, and said he had received a bribe from the English to betray the town; and then by circumstances brought him almost to believe there was some such intent of assault, and that the bell was set there for a watchword to give the alarm. Whereupon he with them ordained the Cutwall to pull it down, who coming to our house with some forty or fifty shot, and an unaccustomed guard, put our people in doubt and resolution to defend, yet permitted the Cutwall's entrance and entreated him kindly; but others rushing after him, swords were drawn in defence, they forced out, and the doors shut."

The next morning the bell and the weathercock were pulled down. The attack on the English is referred to in the 'Embassy' of Sir Thomas Roe.

The despatch of Keeling to the East with plenary powers is for the first time clearly explained in the present volume. The instructions actually given to Keeling appear nowhere among the Company's records, but Mr. Foster considers there can be little doubt that the undated and mutilated fragment contained in a Cotton MS. in the British Museum is a portion of a copy:—

"Amongst other things, the person to whom the commission is addressed is ordered to 'choose four principal places where the chief persons ought to be resident, viz., Surat, Coromandell, Bantam, Patanea; to which principal persons you may give (the) name of Agents, Directors, Consuls, or such like.'"

In the 'Calendar of State Papers: East Indies, 1513-1616,' the document in the British Museum is conjecturally assigned to 1614, with a suggestion that its contents were addressed to Jourdain; but Jourdain had no such plenary power. Having been told in June, 1614, that their trade would never be competently managed until they had, like the Dutch, a resident chief supervising the whole of their factories, the Company appointed Keeling to stay in the East for five years, either at Bantam or Jactara, with absolute control over their ships and servants in all parts of the East.

Besides Indian affairs there is a good deal of fresh and interesting matter relating to our dealings with Japan. Owing to the reaction against foreigners and the policy of the reigning Shogun, or one of the generals who had made himself Mayor of the Palace, and his advisers, the privileges formerly granted to the English were curtailed. There had been for some time a bitter persecution of the Catholic missionaries and their converts. William Eaton writes from Yedo, September 13th, 1616:—

"You shall understand that we came to Edo the 27th ultimo, and the first of September we delivered our present to the Emperor, but as yet cannot be despatched, by the reason there is much ado here about banishing away all the friars and Jesuits that are yet remaining in many places of Japan, going disguised in the habits of merchants. Here is divers writings set up by the Emperor that no man or woman shall give meat or drink or likewise harbour any

of such kind of people upon pain of cruel death to be inflicted upon them and their kindred; and for that cause hath sent divers spies abroad into all his dominions."

Richard Cocks, "Captain and Cape Merchant of the English Factory in Japon," however, maintained with success his claim that the English, under the emperor's grant, were not amenable to the Japanese tribunals. A dispute arose, as Cocks says indignantly, "about a piece of straw cord not worth a farthing," in the course of which William Eaton fatally injured a Japanese sailor. Eaton was seized and imprisoned by the local authorities, but after some delay was released owing to Cocks's representation as to the illegality of the tribunal. The unfortunate native attendant lost his head on the plea that he had "begun the bruit."

By the letters and consultations of the factors a good deal of light is thrown, not only on the Far Eastern trade, but on the commencement of the trade with Persia. For instance, in a letter from two English adventurers, dated Tuesday, December 17th, 1616, we have a glowing account of a port which "lieth thwart" of Ormuz called Gombran (Gombroon, Bandar Abbas, the future headquarters of English trade in the Gulf),

"which is the best harbour in all Persia and where ships of any burden may ride under the command of a strong fort, a town peopled with upwards of 2,000 families and within a day's journey of Magastan, the chief city of this province. Thither do resort all the merchants of India, Persia, and Turke, a free receptacle for trade, and for our purpose most secure and convenient for many other consequential considerations of benefit and honour thereon depending, which we will relate to you at our coming."

The present volume contains a good deal of striking detail regarding the trade and currency of the East from Persia to Japan. Information can also be gleaned regarding the commodities and manufactures of the day and their prices. Indigoes Biana, the flower and principal, we read in a letter dated September 18th and November 26th, 1616, are always worth, being old and dry, 36 and 38 rupees per maund. We also have a good description of the manufacture of indigo:—

"In the prime June they sow it, which the rains bring up about the prime September; this they cut, and it is called the Newty [*naya* or new, i.e., the first crop] formerly mentioned, and is a good sort. Next year it sprouts again in the prime August, which they cut and is the best indigo, called Jerry, or cultivated. Two months after it sprouts again, which they cut, and thereof they make the worst sort; and afterwards they let it grow to seed and sow again. Being cut, they steep it 24 hours in a cistern of water; then they draw it into another cistern where men beat it six hours forcibly with their hands till it becomes blue, mixing therewith a little oil; then having stood another day, they draw off the water and there resteth settled at the bottom pure indigo (which some to falsify mix with dirt and sand), which they dry by degrees, first in cloths till the water be sunk from it and it be curdled; afterwards they dry it in round gobbets."

A note should have explained "Indigoes Biana." At p. 292 we have "the said proceed in Serques indigo," and a note only states "Sarkheg." But from Tavernier's 'Travels in India' we learn that

"Indigo comes from several parts of the Great Moghul's Empire; and according to the diversity of the places it differs in quality, and consequently in price. In the first place, it comes from the territories of *Biana*, Indona, and *Covesa*, a day or two's journey from Agra, which is esteemed the best of all. It is made also eight days' journey from *Surat* in a village called *Sarques*, two leagues distant from Amadabad."

In Stavorinus's 'Voyages to the East Indies' we have:—

"Chircees, or Chercees, is a small town about a league and a half from Amadabad. It has a great number of tombs of the kings and princes of Guzarat, whence the Indians believe that it was, in ancient times, the capital of that kingdom; but it is more probable that it was only the burying-place of their kings, and that Amadabad was always their capital. The factory which the Dutch had here was established for the sake of purchasing indigo."

Mr. Foster's notes to the third volume of this series and his notes to his classic edition of Sir Thomas Roe's 'Embassy' contain so much original matter—gathered not only from the India Office records, but from original documents in the British Museum and contemporary printed works—that he has created a high standard by which he should be judged. The majority of the notes in the present volume bear proof of considerable labour and research, but some are far too short, and therefore apt to be misleading, e.g., "*Bandar* (landing-place)." *Bandar* is a landing-place, but it is also a seaport, a harbour, and sometimes also a custom-house. *Shah-bandar*, literally "King of the Haven," was, as Sir Henry Yule says, the title of an officer at native ports all over the Indian seas, who was the chief authority with whom foreign traders and shipmasters had to transact business. *Jagir* means something more than a district. Sir George Birdwood has identified *pambre* with *pagri*, the Hindustani for turban, and has supplied a most interesting and delightful note on turbans. We are not prepared absolutely to subscribe to the etymology, though it has in a great measure the high sanction of Yule and Burnell. In the new edition of their classic it is to be hoped their note on the word *turban* will be discussed by some Persian and Arabic scholar.

Mr. Foster has written an introduction which gives a clear analysis of the papers contained in the book. Miss E. B. Sainsbury has again made the necessary transcripts, and also compiled an index, which, it is pleasant to be able to say, is thoroughly good. Mr. A. N. Wollaston has contributed a translation of a letter of Mahabat Khan to Sir Thomas Roe. A facsimile of the letter, which is endorsed by Roe, might have formed a frontispiece to the volume.

Simplification de l'Enseignement de la Syntaxe Française. (Arrêté du 31 Juillet, 1900.)

HERE is a small and modest-looking Government minute issued by the Minister of Public Instruction in Paris which has escaped notice amid the din of war and politics in England. And yet it is a momentous order, and will revolutionize the teaching of French, not only in France, but all over the world. That this is the intention of the French Government may, perhaps, be inferred from a single clause, which notes that the existing

rules have made the learning of French very difficult to foreigners. And to ambitious politicians this is the dominating idea in the reform. The French have now a great colonial empire, and still greater colonial aspirations. They see that English, the competing language, would long since have become the *lingua franca* of the world but for the absurdities of its spelling. The English nation are far too stupid to accommodate themselves in any way to the needs of foreigners and barbarians; and what foreigner can learn English speech when he finds himself in the swamps of English "orthography"? Let him only attempt *bough, lough, though, cough, rough*, on any rational principles, and he will promptly conclude when he hears them spoken that though the reading of English is facilitated by a most simple grammar, the speaking of it is meant not to extend beyond the British Isles.

The difficulties of French spelling are very different in kind. There is no maddening variety in pronouncing the same written syllable. The various, mostly silent terminations added to the same syllable indicate some rational difference in sense. No one can complain that *avait, avez, avaient*, though pronounced alike (before consonants), ought not to be distinguished as they are. But there are also many grammatical subtleties, beyond the grasp of common sense, which are expressed in French spelling. Apart from doubts about plurals in *s* or *x*, about compound plurals (*chefs d'œuvre, chef d'œuvres, or chefs d'œuvres*), and the like, there are the terrible rules about the *participle passé*, which have distressed so many millions of boys and girls. If we could say, Wherever this participle (with *avoir*) is regarded as an adjective separate from the verb, decline it; wherever it is merely part of a compound verb, do not; all would be easy. The reform before us goes much more simply to work. In all cases of the *part. passé* with *avoir* or with reflexive verbs you need not in future decline it unless you like. *On tolérera* is the formula addressed by the State to teachers and examiners. No children are to be rejected or mulcted in marks who show ignorance of these subtle grammatical rules.

A large number of other relaxations are ordained and examples adduced in the tract before us. It is highly interesting, and characteristic of the difference between English and French, that these reforms, which almost exclusively affect spelling and not pronunciation, are called reforms in French *syntax*. No spelling reform which we could undertake could possibly be so disguised. No subtle logic lies behind our vagaries in spelling, and therefore there would be no intellectual or educational loss in any moderate reform we could undertake. On the other hand, we should certainly make reformed English the *lingua franca* of the world, whereas all the attempts of the French reformers will only mar the delicacy and force of that matchless growth—modern French prose—and will not impose it upon the world in the face of English and German colonial expansion.

This large imperial idea—that of preserving and spreading the primacy of French as a world-language—being, in our opinion, not attainable, it remains to

consider whether the abolition of the delicacies of syntax for the purpose of facilitating the passing of examinations is an object worthy of such a revolution. The French Academy has not yet spoken its opinion, so far as we know. If we may judge from the highly interesting article of M. Brunetière (in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* for September 1st), educated Frenchmen will be wholly opposed to it. They will see in it the abandonment of the greatest remaining aristocracy of France—the aristocracy of style. To them the noble language of Bossuet and Fénelon, of Montalembert and Renan, is a sacred trust, and the proper learning of it is a mental training, which nothing can replace. As our best English writers have learnt how to write clear and accurate English from their long training in the subtleties of Greek and Latin grammar, so the French have attained their skill through the scientific teaching of their native tongue. A great part of this training consists in overcoming logical difficulties, in understanding subtle logical distinctions, in remembering minute details. The writing of Latin prose is as thorough and searching a mental training as the understanding of Euclid, because there are traps to be avoided in every word, because there must be a re-thinking of every sentence. To simplify the French syntax because many ordinary children cannot master it seems to us like simplifying Latin grammar for the same reason. Let us imagine a ukase from the Department of Education in London simplifying the Eton Latin Grammar for the benefit of the secondary schools. *On tolérera* that a neuter relative may succeed any antecedent, that cardinals may be combined with ordinals in figures, e.g., *viginti-septimo*, comparatives coupled with positive adjectives, any subjunctive tense in the apodosis to follow any indicative tense in the protasis, &c. What would become of Latin grammar as an engine of mental training? Or is the fact that French is a living language to destroy its pre-eminence as a logical engine of education?

These considerations seem to have been quite beyond the vision of the ministers who penned the following sentence (p. 15):—

"Il conviendra, dans les examens, de ne pas compter comme fautes graves celles qui ne prouvent rien contre l'intelligence et le véritable savoir des candidats, mais qui prouvent seulement l'ignorance de quelque finesse ou de quelque subtilité grammaticale."

Was there ever a more idiotic direction to examiners? What is to determine *intelligence* and *real knowledge*? Is the mastering of classical French syntax with its subtleties neither? What sort of knowledge is to be defined as *real*? Is no credit to be allowed for the grasping and remembering of subtle distinctions? Is a boy who can do this to be put on a level with one who cannot? The *arrêté* enumerates under various heads a large number of relaxations; but the list is far from including all the possible blunders of candidates in spelling or syntax. If they violate rules other than those here set down as of no consequence, what will be the result? One examiner will refer to his *arrêté* and find that such an error is intolerable; another will reason by analogy and argue, If one such rule may be violated why not another? Thus vagueness

and uncertainty will invade not only the training, but the testing of all students of the French language. Nay more, as teachers in outlying and remote places are wont to be conservative, and perhaps ignorant of changes at headquarters, we shall have purer French taught in Oran or in Quebec than in Paris, and examinations stricter in Edinburgh or in St. Petersburg than in the University of France. Fortunately the "new brooms" have made a large concession to aristocratic prejudice. None of the new violations of grammar is to be compulsory; those who turn from the new wine to the old and find it better are not prohibited from clinging to it. But toleration, the refrain of this *arrêté*, is not a democratic virtue. If democracy has been spitefully defined as the passage of power from gentlemen to sweeps, this definition seems likely to be verified so far as French syntax is concerned. The pity of it is that a large reform of spelling has been ordered by the State where it was not wanted, and where it will be of no service to the world. Here in England, where a moderate reform would violate no logic and destroy little living knowledge of the meaning of words, and where it would produce an immense effect upon the world, every practical suggestion is received with lofty contempt.

M. Brunetière criticizes the *arrêté* not less severely than we do, but upon somewhat different grounds. He does not condescend to consider his language as a mere means of communication, but treats it as a work of art. The only foreigners he regards as the civilized nations of Europe, and he rightly thinks that the interest they have long shown in knowing French will be best maintained by maintaining the dignity and splendour of French prose, not by reducing it to a sort of Volapük. He also apprehends grave dangers from the absence of any body of public opinion which commands respect and can check the follies of ephemeral ministers. Formerly the Court or the salons were arbiters of fashion. These are gone, and he never mentions the Academy as fulfilling this function. In the absence of some such check he prophesies that the *permissions* of the Minister of Education will be understood as *directions*, the teachers in primary schools will hasten to conform to them, and so the French language will be degraded to the level of what ignorant children are supposed to be able to understand. The imperfect subjunctive need no longer be used, says the Minister. "Il a vécu," says M. Brunetière. But with it will go one of the beauties of the language, which he exhibits to such advantage.

Shakespeare's Greenwood. By George Morley. (Nutt.)

MR. MORLEY has not surrounded Shakespeare once more with an environment of inferential biography, an abstention for which one is duly grateful. He says nothing special about the town of Stratford, and his aim is merely to exhibit in chatty style some of the folk-lore and dialect and other characteristic features which survive, in spite of railways and modern education, in the beautifully wooded country of which Stratford is roughly the centre. He has chapters also on local birds and trees, and

finishes up with the parson, the poets, and the novelist of the district, George Eliot. Warwickshire contains many still picturesque and primitive villages; the dialect is largely unimpaired, and there is every chance for a pleasant series of essays.

This book opens well; it is pleasant in a way, but also decidedly irritating. It is too sketchy, full of loose English and the wearisome, uncritical paraphrase which is mere amplitude without dignity or humour or any counterbalancing gain. The commencing stylist quickly learns the possibilities of paraphrase; the writer of experience knows how easy it is to overdo it. It is too late in the day, for instance, to say with effect that a man "had long since gone to 'that bourne from which no traveller returns.'" It does not move one at all. One reads without a thrill the statement concerning Somerville, Jago, and Shenstone that "this poetic trinity enjoyed the conviviality which springs from the company of minds so well suited to each other as these were." Such points, however, may be considered trifles, though they mean much for the comfort of the reader. More serious is Mr. Morley's lack of accuracy in things beyond ordinary knowledge; it somewhat spoils his intimate acquaintance with Warwickshire manners and customs.

Of the dialect, which has hitherto been attacked by learned rather than picturesque writers, an interesting selection is made. In common with other people who have a district to celebrate, the author mentions as local words which exist also in other counties. This is perhaps inevitable, as counties so far apart as Dorset and Warwickshire, for instance, share many peculiar words. But he might have avoided mentioning as distinctive words which have been in all sorts of English everywhere for many years. To "lace" (to thrash) is, for instance, not peculiar to Warwickshire any more than other terms of a similar import. The most effective threat of the sort we have heard was "I'll massacre thee," with a tremendous emphasis on the last syllable. The Warwickshire ballad 'Lobb's Courtship,' taken down orally from a farmer, is undoubtedly genuine, and contains the characteristic expression "I can't awhile," which we have heard many times from lazy domestics who have never any time for the moment and "have no call," as they commonly say, to work. This "call" is good Warwickshire lingo, but well known elsewhere too. It occurs in Plumptre's translation of Sophocles, where it wears a decidedly awkward air. "Faggot" is rightly explained as a depreciatory term applied to the fairer sex—laughingly used, however, when we have heard it. Mr. Morley does not quote the traditional *tu quoque* in reply to the term "Faggot's wood, and I be good, and that's more than tha' be." The *w* for *o*, the *y* for *h*, and general broadening of vowels are noted, but the first "really somewhat grates upon the ear of those in search of expressive and picturesque language." This objection does not occur to the present reviewer, nor will it probably to any one who was born and bred amongst those slow, uncouth lovers of dialect who linger lovingly over their broad intonations. "Brevet" (or rather "brevit") is said to mean "sniff about like a dog,"

but the word indicates mainly, to our idea, a discursive, aimless wandering rather than any sniffing. Local proverbs Mr. Morley does not dilate on. The village folks we knew always said "as nigh as nigh" to represent a narrow escape, which some would have to be "knife," in accordance with the Greek *ἐν γὰρ ἐν χερσὶ τοῦτο*, but we always seemed clearly to hear a noun meaning nearness parallel to "height."

On the flowers of Shakespeare much has been written, much wrongly surmised. Near an old Shakespearean house the lily of the valley grows wild, and Mr. Morley thinks it odd that the poet did not mention it. But this lily is a rare wild flower now in England—in fact, very local—and may well be an "escape" from gardens which had not become noticeable in Shakespeare's time. There is a still odder omission in his flora, that of the white water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*), which is so widespread everywhere. And, after all, Shakespeare's reputation as encyclopædic has been overdone. There was no reason why he should include everything; one would never gather from his works that he had seen Warwick Castle, or given more than a passing glance at the Tower of London. Mr. Morley speaks of "keek" (the "kecksies" of 'Henry V.'), of course, like the village boy of to-day in Warwickshire, but keek is hardly "that umbelliferous plant, the hemlock." It is applied indifferently to several of the larger Umbelliferae, and not restricted to hemlock proper (*Conium maculatum*), which Shakespeare mentions also by name. A curious point is the smell of the cuckoo flowers, which Shakespeare calls "ladysmocks all silver white," and a modern laureate paints as "mauver still and mauver," as the season is getting over. "Smell smocks," we are told, is their local name, and the common folks are rebuked for their meaningless tribute to an absent scent. We are bold enough to think that there is something to be said for their view. The smell is certainly faint, but discernible at times. We call on our side Tennyson, a deep student of wild flowers, who wrote of "faint sweet cuckoo flowers" in the 'May Queen,' and in 'Margaret' of

Your melancholy sweet and frail
As perfume of the cuckoo flower.

There is, of course, a good deal of confusion about so general a term as cuckoo flower, cuckoo buds and cuckoo pint meaning something else; but it seems clear that Tennyson is referring to *Cardamine pratensis*, Shakespeare's cuckoo flower, as the other candidates for the reference are unsuitable. Mr. Morley has steered clear of the vexed question of "long purples," and perhaps it is just as well, since people will go on quarrelling about the matter, and suggesting identifications which are ludicrously inept to the botanist.

There are many apposite references made to old words preserved in Shakespeare or George Eliot's homely dialect. Here is one:—

"In the course of her laundry work the Warwickshire housewives [*sic*] may frequently be heard calling out, 'Hey, but you mun give me the batlet; I canna do withouten she.' Now the word *batlet* is direct from Shakespeare's time. In 'As You Like It' (Act II. scene 4) Touchstone says: 'And I remember the kissing

of her batlet'—the *batlet* that the pleasing Jane Smile had used in her washing."

A very simple word, not noticed here, and shorter than any current equivalents (surely a great recommendation nowadays), is to "dout" a candle. Shakespeare has it in 'Hamlet,' and Warwickshire uses it every day; but we have heard it elsewhere as well.

That this dialect has some claims to be the fittest, as preserved in Shakespeare, is evident; that it will survive one cannot, unfortunately, believe. It is all very pretty to suggest that the Warwickshire peasant regards his dialect as "a sacred trust." He simply speaks it because he cannot help doing so, and now that he marries outside his own village—"out-town people" or "furriners," as we have heard them called—and goes to London by cheap railway trips, he is fast losing his local colour in speech and custom. Twenty years ago two or three men of the villages we knew penetrated to Birmingham for business purposes, and were valued as extraordinary and adventurous beings. Now all go or can go to London, and even imbibe a certain amount of the unlovely dialect which, with Biblical infusions, fills full the rather sanguinary cup of modern patriotic poetry. Nor can one entirely express an undiluted Ruskinian regret at these changes. Long Compton has sent men, perhaps, to the wars; then Long Compton will learn discipline, will walk as if it had joints and more than a mile an hour, and not "turn awkward" at every possible crisis with village stupidity and temper. The people are getting cautious about their superstitions, too, since learned men have been down with note-books. There would be little chance now, we think, of the things we remember—a charming old Oxford rector, who never hurt a fly, being accused of "over-looking" a child with the evil eye, or a man who had made a little money, and, oddly enough, kept it, getting a parish reputation as a "witch." Mr. Morley has more belief in the future permanency of local traditions than we can muster; perhaps he has been more fortunate in the villages he knows.

An interesting account is included of some old customs and evil doings which resulted in ghosts or strange superstitions. Mummings are indicated as practically obsolete, and mere modern theatricals by gentlefolk are suggested as their substitute. Such we envy not nor admire, but we can boast of having heard the genuine thing till quite recently, a crude play taught by the schoolmaster, crammed with odd words and pronunciations. The awful story of Margaret Clopton, worthy of Poe in his most macabre humour, is quoted from Howitt; and from the many uncanny things of the county the "White Lady" of Chesford Bridge and the apparition of One-handed Boughton are, amongst others, selected for notice. The passage quoted from 'Silas Marner' concerning ghosts is interesting as showing the rustic view that they are smelt; certain it is that dogs have felt their presence much. Long Compton and the adjacent Rollright Stones are both mentioned. The rather odd phrase "the King Stone of the Rollrights" may indicate exceptional knowledge which recent writers on Oxfordshire have failed to acquire, or be mere guesswork. We prefer to credit Mr. Morley with

the former. Long Compton, by-the-by, has not always lived out of the world; a row of famous coaches used to toil up Long Compton Hill and take extra horses there, as the ascent is steep and rather lengthy.

As a typical Warwickshire parson Dr. Samuel Parr, of Hatton, is selected, and said to be "an amiable and worthy representative" of the class. This is rather unfortunate. He was only a village parson by accident, and should have been a great schoolmaster. He did not feed his flock so much as Mr. Richard Porson and other choice classic spirits who made his house famous for good living. He was notoriously cranky and passionate rather than amiable. We are told here that he delighted in "writing classic poetry." In the fairly extensive eight volumes of his 'Works' we find plenty of the Latin inscriptions for which he was famous, but no poetry at all, classic or otherwise. On the same page we hear of Dr. Parr's "prototype, Dr. Samuel Johnson, who died the year before his birth." Our author may be invited to look at a fairly well-known book briefly described as Boswell's 'Johnson,' where he will find an interview recorded between these two doctors, who were, as most people know, two of the most famous scholars of the day. In fact, the account of Dr. Parr given in these pages does not altogether inspire confidence in Mr. Morley's research. The doctor "had no bother with the poorer parishioners." No; he bled all his academic and political friends so well that he did not need to trouble them much. He gave a peal of bells to his church, and wrote an amusing letter about it, reproduced here, from which we may quote:—

"I believe that my Norwich friends would have honoured me as a country parson if they had seen the harmless but animated festivity of my village on Friday last. The great bell has inscribed upon it the name of 'Paul,' and is now lying upon our green. It holds more than seventy-three gallons. It was filled with good ale, and was emptied too, on Friday last. More than 300 of my parishioners, young and old, rich and poor, assembled, and their joy was beyond description."

Quite so; but their reasons for satisfaction are somewhat evident. The same "amiable" doctor wrote of his flock as follows: "I have an excellent house, good neighbours, and a Poor, ignorant, dissolute, insolent and ungrateful beyond all example." There is some excellent "copy" concealed in the dreary expanse of Parr's 'Works,' for he was an oddity, but not a typical parson, being one of the finest Grecians of his time, in correspondence with great ladies who would not have condescended to an ordinary clergyman. He would not have let Mr. Morley speak of gardening as "the Arcadian's art." That is music: "Soli cantare periti Arcades." We have heard people still living speak of a Warwickshire parson who possessed a Shakespearean freedom of manners. He would fight any man for the pleasure of it, or a small dole of drink, and his horse knew the way home of an evening without guidance, which was sometimes not forthcoming.

The poets Shenstone, Somerville, Jago, are not a very distinguished trinity, and we have left ourselves no space to consider the rather uncritical account of their

merits. Shenstone was a man of some humour and taste, and would make a little fortune if he were alive to-day by the revived business of "landscape gardening," but as a poet he is dead, and cannot ever, we think, revive. Reflections aroused by the Round Tower of Edge Hill do not create any enthusiasm in us. Mr. Morley might have added that the building is a humbug, a modern ruin put up to please the daily tourist, with about as much glamour attached to it as to the castellated india-rubber works on Mitcham Common. The last chapter deals pleasantly with George Eliot and the Newdigate family with which her early life was associated. Here we note a remark about "the cadaverous and painfully careful historian" shut up in "a colossal city" who is underpaid, overworked, and seldom, if ever, read. Are big libraries really so inaccessible in these days? The scholar's gift of pallor is not invariable, and, possibly, not unbecoming. His gift of accuracy is underrated just now, and, "painful" as it is, may be commended to Mr. Morley as worth following.

NEW NOVELS.

Quisanté. By Anthony Hope. (Methuen & Co.)

THE political novel, to judge by the number of failures that we can remember, must offer great temptations to the writer of fiction, and present no less great difficulties, for certainly few seem to steer successfully between the shoals of thinly veiled personality, the so-called *roman à clef*, on the one hand, and the equally obvious Blue-book *réchauffé* on the other. The characters in the one case are caricatures, in the other dummies. In neither do they or their fortunes move the reader in the least. It is the more to Anthony Hope's credit that, venturing on this line, he should have produced a story fuller, in our judgment, of genuine human interest and acute study of human nature than anything we have yet had from him. Let the reader picture to himself a Tito whose attraction is not physical but intellectual, a Romola who is an English lady of the nineteenth century and not a Florentine of the fifteenth, and he will form a fair idea of the respective positions of Alexander Quisanté and Lady May Gaston, who becomes his wife. Of course the parallel must not be pushed too far; the modern Tito has a physical "heart" certainly, and probably a heart in the metaphorical sense; his wife has undoubtedly a keen sense of humour—they are human beings, not abstractions or personages in a "morality." But the theme is the same. A high-minded woman is captivated by certain qualities in a man, not necessarily implying the possession of what is called "character," and when the irrevocable step has been taken finds that his standard of righteous dealing, though not below that which conventional morality sanctions, falls very far short of hers. The difficulty of so managing the story that the reader's sympathies may be duly balanced is obvious. A touch too much one way, and the husband will be a scoundrel; the other, and the wife will become an impracticable pedant of honesty. Anthony Hope has shown himself an amazingly skilful craftsman in overcoming

the difficulty. We doubt once or twice whether we disapprove of Quisanté's behaviour as much as we are expected to do—so many people do so much worse and lose no credit. If he had lived to be a Cabinet Minister indeed, the "Alethea Printing Press" might have afforded him an opportunity of accepting some other tender than the lowest, let us say; or he might, having acquired power by ultra-Radicalism, have kept it by a timely repudiation of former professions; or have suborned false affidavits in the interest of one party and opened private letters in that of another; but, after what we have seen in real life, his defections from strict probity seem hardly very serious. In one case, it would appear, the apparent insincerity which suppressed an unfavourable report on an invention in which he was interested turned out to be a perfectly justified distrust of an "expert." Still one cannot deny that Lady May had grounds for "oscillating between the mood produced by an intense intellectual admiration on the one hand and an intense antipathy of the feelings on the other." How the discord was resolved must be learnt from the book itself; but we do not imagine that many readers will wish that Lady May had rejected the problematic Quisanté in favour of the Aristidean Marchmont. To say that the book abounds in clever talk and smart epigram is only to say that it is by Anthony Hope:—

"She was content if she could persuade her mother that people after all said nothing very dreadful (for what was said was always more to Lady Attlebridge than what was true)."

"The man who begins by being unpromising as to his own convictions may end by finding an actual pleasure in disagreeing with those of others."

"He wants a party all to himself," said Constantine [the Whip] angrily. 'And then I'm hanged if he'd vote with it.'

These are a few random samples. The dean and his wife, Mrs. Baxter, are always delightful. "Generations of clerical ancestry had bred in her such an instinct as we see in sporting dogs; she could not go wrong" on a question of morality. While regretting the indisposition which, according to the daily press, has checked the Parliamentary aspirations of Mr. A. H. Hawkins, one cannot but feel that there are compensations in the retention of Anthony Hope for literature. Nor is it at all certain that by such a book as this he may not do more service to English politics than by any number of even the most independent votes at Westminster. One might have been told, by the way, whether the hero's patronymic is to be sounded as French, Italian, or Spanish. Terrible hash will be made of it in the next few weeks.

Charming Renée. By Arabella Kenealy. (Hutchinson & Co.)

MISS KENEALY has, upon the whole, shown progress in her art. The characters of charming Renée and the misanthropic and despairing recluse who marries her without love, for family reasons, but is conquered by her affectionate fidelity, and brought back, as we have reason to hope, "to life and use and name and fame," are conceived more subtly and nobly than experience would have led one to expect. The contrast of the

beautiful and cultivated artist's daughter with the middle-class maidens of Kerleigh, who do not understand superiority that goes afoot, and the equally sharp distinction between Lord Stratheldon, Renée's hero, and the vulgar crowd of "smart" people who, under the guidance of his terrible sister-in-law, make day frivolous and night hideous in his ancestral hall, are well set forth. The aristocrats of the story are not so successfully studied as the *bourgeoisie*; but the sketch of Tony Callander, the "highly elaborated, finely active, admirably clean machine," is good, though better is the worldly little plebeian schemer, Renée's mother, whose interviews with her saturnine son-in-law are admirable.

The Marble Face. By G. Colmore. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

In some quarters this will, no doubt, be called a powerful book; but the cynical may think it better described by the terms fantastic and spasmodic. The notion of a man of mature years being kept a prisoner in his own house by his own mother, and denied all intercourse with the outer world save at her permission—her only means of constraint being the threat of revealing a crime which he has no consciousness of having committed, and which, if committed at all, was so, on her own showing, in her defence and in peril of his own life—will hardly convince the most indolent novel-reader, or form a "problem" for the curiosity of the most inexperienced; while the artifice by which the story is told twice over—the victim himself and a young lady from next door narrating in alternate chapters their respective experiences and impressions, both in a highly emotional vein—is hardly to be commended. The now almost inevitable adultery is dragged in, for no purpose, it would seem, save to add a further touch of repulsiveness to the story; nor is there any reason in the fitness of things why the half-witted matron who forms a somewhat irritating foil to the tragedians should be selected as the victim of the final catastrophe. As might be expected, there is a great deal of weather, of one sort or another, but mostly wet and windy.

The Worldlings. By Leonard Merrick. (Murray.)

THE worldlings, after condoning a very serious and successful felony, ultimately behave quite sensibly. The plot is ingenious and interesting, and a summary of it would be unfair. It must suffice to say that the story turns on a clever impersonation. On the whole, it may be added that the novelist makes the most of the materials. The worst part of the book is its phraseology, especially in the later chapters. A "note reproaching him for his absentmindedness," "preludory phrases," "she had detrudded others," are specimens taken at random. We recollect three or four of the six earlier novels attributed to the same pen, and one at least ranks above 'The Worldlings.'

The Pretty Polly. By W. Clark Russell. (Chatto & Windus.)

MR. CLARK RUSSELL is seldom at a loss for a peg to hang a sea story on. A boy with weak eyes, to be cured by a sea voyage, is

as good as another, and he serves to collect a few more boys, who ship as "gentlemen-apprentices" on a smart brig, and have the usual adventures. We suppose Mr. Russell has a *clientèle* among young people, but if they can understand all that he tells them an acquaintance with nautical terminology must be a good deal more widely spread than our own observation would lead us to infer; while if they can get any clear idea from some of his descriptive passages it would go some way to establish the theory set forth in Wordsworth's famous ode. "Under the dolphin-striker the air was the white-ash breeze of the oar, so bright was the seething salt, so refractive the sweeping atmosphere," or "The pink of the east clarified the violet horizon of the west into the clear sweep of the edge of a lens," may have a meaning in other worlds than this, but to one on whom the shades of the prison-house are close they seem mere gaudy gibberish. It is a pity, for Mr. Russell really has the root of the matter in him, and if he would take the pains to arrange his vocabulary, he might yet write a book which would attract and not repel those who have known Tom Cringle and Jack Easy.

The Silver Dove. By A. C. Inchbold. (Hutchinson & Co.)

'THE SILVER DOVE' is an ingenuous story of the vicissitudes of a drunkard. It is a genuine novel, we hasten to add, and not—to our knowledge—a prize story intended to exhibit the evils of intemperance, though, to be sure, it serves that purpose. The "case" in this instance is a married man, with a young wife, who has a horror of drink, and suffers acutely by the weakness of the man whom she loves. In her despair she takes an extraordinary means of being separated from him, under the impression that her loss of respect was equivalent to a loss of love. We will not damp the reader's curiosity by stating what was Mrs. Penrose's device for getting out of her husband's way. It might be supposed that she was not a direct agent in attempting the reclamation of her husband. But she does her part indirectly. Her device, as the author says, was "another case of false perspective." The story is interesting enough, and in the main clever.

The Slaves of Society. By the Man who Heard Something. (Harper & Brothers.)

FROM the facile way in which the persons of this drawing-room comedy are moved on and off the stage, and from the concluding scene in which all the chief characters are represented, it might be thought that this novel partook more closely of the nature of drama than fiction. It is a severe satire on the ways and manners of "smart society," and will, no doubt, interest readers as such. With the exception of a silly opinion on the paintings of Lawrence and Constable, there is nothing in the book to excite hostile comment, unless one of the fashionable "drawing-room cats" of the day should resent his characterization. The volume is short, and contains light reading of a tolerable type. The pictorial cover is meaningless.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

AN excellent and attractive addition to shooting-lodge literature is published by Messrs. Longman under the title of *Autumns in Argyleshire with Rod and Gun*, by the Hon. A. E. Gathorne-Hardy—excellent because of the matter and manner of the text, and attractive by reason of the admirable get-up of the volume, and of eight clever illustrations by Archibald Thorburn. The country described is naturally most beautiful, and is perhaps as well known to the travelling public as any other part of Scotland, for it lies on the route from Glasgow to Oban, near the Crinan Canal, where passengers leave the fast and well-found steamers Columba and Iona, and either walk on the banks or use the small canal boat, with which they have no difficulty in keeping pace. A little north of the canal lies Poltalloch, the property of Lord Malcolm, a sportsman's paradise, and here Mr. Gathorne-Hardy has had the good fortune to spend most of his autumns since 1867. He thus describes the property:—

"Poltalloch comprises upwards of 100,000 acres of moorland and plantations, interspersed with arable and pasture land in the straths and glens. It extends southward along the sound of Jura to the mouth of Loch Sween in Cantyre, and is bounded on the west by Loch Crinan and Loch Craignish, extending northward and eastward along the shores of Loch Awe.....I know no species of Highland game, except ptarmigan and capercaillie, which cannot be found within the bounds of the property, although red deer have not penetrated beyond the woods on the shores of Loch Awe. More than a score of lochs provide good trout fishing in the spring and summer, and there is capital sea fishing along the coast, while the marine zoologist finds incomparable dredging ground in the deep and sheltered waters of Loch Craignish and other beautiful bays and creeks. Opposite the mouth of Loch Crinan lies a long row of rocky islands round which great sport can be had with lythe and saithe at the turn of the tide."

To complete the attractions of the place there is a little river, the Add, which holds salmon and sea trout, and which in one auspicious week yielded to the author's 10½ ft. trout rod and small sea-trout flies no fewer than thirty-five salmon from 17½ lb. to 4½ lb. weight. No wonder that he is inspired and writes with enthusiasm, placing Argyleshire, in spite of a liberal rainfall, first among the counties of Scotland. The sport described includes driving fallow-deer, chasing the roe, stalking the stag, as well as the mixed bags which fell to gun and rod. Most of the chapters have appeared in various periodicals, but they are good enough to justify reproduction.

Mr. Charles Edward Walker has in *Shooting on a Small Income* (Constable & Co.) chosen a subject of much interest and importance to a considerable number of people, and a thorough investigation of it by an expert could not fail to be of real service to those whose means are limited. It is, therefore, a disappointment to find, after carefully reading his book, that, in respect to the chief problem which they have to solve, the class of persons for whom the volume is mainly written will rise from its perusal as wise as they were before they began it. It is true that the advice generally on the purchase of guns, ammunition, dogs, and the renting and improvement of a shooting, is sound; but all this is available elsewhere, and, indeed, is known to all save the inexperienced. What does it come to? Buy as good a gun

"as you can, but in any case, if you want to be safe and want to shoot, buy one from a well-known maker, and do not be tempted to buy the cheap rubbish which is put on the market.....Don't buy your cartridges haphazard. Buy them from good makers; you may have to pay a little more for them, but cheap cartridges are if anything worse than a cheap gun.....A good mixed shoot is probably the best thing for a man who can only afford to spend a moderate amount on his shooting. He will be able to get what is called a rough shoot at a moderate rent, and with judicious management will be able to improve it at a small cost."

And so on; all very excellent, if so general as to be useless to the man who wants to know how far 100% should go in the way of procuring sport. The first question is, What is the "moderate amount" available? Next, What is a "moderate rent," and what will be the "small cost" of improvement? All these matters are untouched, and we fear that persons who have only small amounts of money—say from 50% to 500% a year—to lay out on shooting, will search the pages of this book in vain for practical help in getting value for their expenditure. Now many true sportsmen have but little cash available for shooting expenses, yet see how far sensible men can make their money go! They obtain a tangible return for 100%, and more sport than the inexperienced or foolish get for three times the money. How is that done? If Mr. Walker had even in a modified way faced that problem many men would have been grateful to him; but it must be remembered that in disclosing the secrets involved he would be doing a disservice to those who have already solved the question. For he would add to a competition which is now crushing, and which seems not unlikely to bar shooting and fishing worth anything to all save rich men. Apart from this, sportsmen of every degree may read Mr. Walker's pages with pleasure and profit. His remarks about the part played by the cap when nitro powders are used are sound, and he has much to say which deserves consideration about the size and measure of shot which should be used. He furnishes many useful hints as to taking and managing coverts, and impresses on his readers the necessity for getting "a deed under seal, transferring the sporting rights." A classical style is not expected in books of this sort, but to be told that the keeper "should enjoy a day's shooting, whether he shoots himself or not on that particular occasion," &c., sounds strange. The volume is illustrated, and there is an index.

Messrs. Dent & Co. publish *A Hunter's Log in Russia*, by Mr. Frederick Whishaw, which is a lively little volume. The bit which, among many that are of interest, pleases us most is the passage in which the author describes that the elk know the boundaries between Russia, in which they have only a close time, and the Grand Duchy of Finland, in which they are protected all the year round. They prefer Russia, or would do so but for the absence of protection, and visit it during the close time, returning to Finland when the close time is over. There is not much real shooting-lore in the volume; it is not a work like Lloyd's 'Field Sports in Norway,' but is suitable to the general public.

"The Amateur Angler" has opened the publishing season with another of his pleasant and pretty volumes. *An Old Man's Holidays* (Sampson Low & Co.) is marked by the same appreciation of nature and the same imperturbable good humour which enable him to bear his disappointments with equanimity, as when he lands a chub instead of the hoped-for trout. It is, however, evident that the Amateur Angler's skill has greatly increased since he began. He throws his flies cunningly in these later days, and he meets his due reward. May he long continue to spend his holidays on the Itchen and the Ithon, and to record his adventures for the benefit of those who are less fortunate!

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

A BOOK on *War's Red Tide*, by Dr. Gordon Stables (Nisbet & Co.), of course tends largely to the glory of all the other Gay Gordons, and as naturally the youngsters round whom the tale of the war is woven are Scotsmen. Chief McArthur is somewhat an anachronism; there are more boiler-makers than chiefs in the Highlands at present, and the Gordons, we fear, are not largely recruited from Highland glens. The references to Mrs. Kruger might be in better taste, and it is to be hoped stories of the khaki

type, which will no doubt be numerous this Christmas, may be superior to this hasty production.—*A Chase round the World*, by Mr. R. Overton (Warne & Co.), is the animated narrative of the shifts and crimes of a fraudulent bank director and the perseverance and good fortune of his partner's son in tracking him, and vindicating his own father from the charge of complicity. The illustration of the London caddy ascending the rigging of the schooner is good.—Messrs. Cassell & Co. publish a tale of American Indian life by Mr. Edward S. Ellis, the author of several works of the same sort. *Iron Heart*, the war chief of the Iroquois, flourished in the days of Washington, which gives the author a free hand. He is represented as a chivalrous warrior, who by the ministrations of a lame boy, Benny Morris, who falls into his hands, is converted to Christianity, and buries the hatchet with the intruding pale-faces.—Mr. Ellis recalls us in *Red Jacket* (same publishers) to the expedition of the American general Sullivan in 1779 against the Iroquois Indians, Red Jacket being a celebrated Seneca chief. The author naturally assumes some facts from the American point of view, but there is little political matter in the story. We have a glimpse of Washington, but the agilities of the scout and his young friend, the dodging and diving of the nimble Indians, provide most of the fun. Sooth to say, the book is a trifle dull.

At the Foot of the Rainbow, by Mr. Cornwall-Legh (Wells Gardner, Darton & Co.), is a pleasant allegory based on the old proverb. The author rightly says the deeper meaning of the quest of the "pot of gold" is not for children until they are children no longer, but in the meantime the adventures of Piers by land and sea in the days of Queen Bess will suit young readers who do not look below the surface. The illustrations are by J. Jellicoe.—In *Ben Cramer, Working Jeweller* (same publishers), Miss Stella Austin shows that her inventive fertility with regard to human and canine nature is still to be relied on, and "my lady Rosina," a comic mule, is added to the gallery of intelligent animals. Bors and Dodo and their big friend Sydney Reid, the Italian boy Tonio and his protégé Terence, are true enough to childish nature, and the adults give them good counsels and much kindness.—*Sylvia's Romance* (same publishers) is a simple tale of the 1715 and the escape of the hero, a young English Jacobite, through the exertions of his lady-love. The author is Miss Marion Andrews, and W. H. C. Groome supplies the illustrations. The use of "do" and "did" is rather too copious for the supposed date of Millicent Allyn's narrative.—It is not clear whether boys or adults are to profit by *The Boer's Blunder, a Veldt Adventure*, by Fox Russell (same publishers). The author says that it is based upon "events which came under his own knowledge whilst travelling in Cape Colony," in the days of British humiliation and distress which succeeded Majuba Hill and the subsequent surrender. The villain who commits arson and abduction on Mr. Templecombe's farm and family is a Boer gun-runner, and so far obnoxious to the honest men of both races. Fortunately, a British tar survives the onslaught of the Amakosa, and struggles through fearful obstacles to the coast at Umfali, whence he brings a gallant band of blue-jackets to the rescue of the heroines in distress. Some comic relief is afforded by an American prospector and a friendly Boer, whose physique forbids the proverbial mobility of his nation.

BOOKS OF TRAVEL.

Half-Hours in Japan. By the Rev. H. Moore, sometime S.P.G. Missionary in the Country. With Illustrations. (Fisher Unwin.)—This is a very slight, but not altogether uninteresting account of Japanese life. But it

seems a pity that the author did not rather relate his experiences as a missionary, and venture on some estimate of the reality, extent, and prospects of Christianity in Japan. Missionary reports do not supply the information required. The subject is treated cursorily in a short chapter, from which we learn that the number of Christians—in a population of nearly forty millions—does not exceed 100,000, and that the statistics are not very trustworthy. Of these about half are Catholics, some 16,000 belong to the Greek Church, about 10,000 are Presbyterians and Congregationalists, and over 8,000 are members of the Nippon Sei Kō Kwai, or Holy Church of Japan, in communion, but as an independent national Church, with the Episcopal Churches of England and America, possessing its own canons and prayer-book, and a Japanese clergy consisting of about twenty-five members. Mr. Moore believes that the Sei Kō Kwai increases, while the other Christian bodies appear to diminish in numbers. This, however, is but a small result of over thirty years' scarcely impeded labours. The causes are not far to seek. The divisions among Christians themselves present a formidable obstacle, mainly on account of the perplexity (as the present writer has often heard from Japanese) into which they throw the minds of many who would gladly exchange the stupidities of Shinto and the superstitions of Buddhism for higher forms of religious belief and practice. Another and a most important defect is the want of a proper training on the part of the missionaries themselves. The Japanese mind is as full of Chinese notions as the language of Chinese words. To influence it the approach must be made by Confucianist and Buddhist paths, of which the missionary knows nothing save through most inadequate translations. The ethical codes of both systems are almost identical with that of Christianity, and may easily be enlarged so as to support almost every ethical Christian doctrine. The greatest of Christian dogmas, again, may be so stated as not to appear unreasonable either to Confucianists or Buddhists. But the Bible is unintelligible, and must always remain so, to a Japanese unfamiliar with Western languages. Its highly figurative and symbolic style is entirely opposed to the matter-of-fact, commonplace, and bald phraseology of Chinese and Japanese. The translations in existence (both Chinese and Japanese) are almost ludicrously inadequate. To a well-educated Japanese they must appear unworthy of serious notice; to the multitude the newly coined or adapted Chinese compounds used to express Christian ideas convey no meaning—they have acquired as yet no connotation. In time, perhaps, the language of Japan at least may develop so as to be a more perfect vehicle of the philosophic and poetic thought of the West, but the adherence (which seems stronger than ever) to Chinese expressions, often quite unintelligible unless written in the Chinese character, bars all real advance in that direction. It is much to be regretted that a resolute attempt is not made to romanize Japanese scripts. Then the noble and harmonious tongue of old Japan would be more resorted to, new words would have to be comprehensible without ideographs, and the stiffness and soullessness of Chinese, a language utterly opposed to pure Japanese, would be removed from a literature that has gone back rather than forward during the last forty years. Finally—and this would be no slight advantage—the thought of the best minds in Japan would be accessible to the Western reader without that prolonged study of mere scripts that few Europeans have the leisure or courage to undertake.

The Voyage of Robert Dudley, afterwards styled Earl of Warwick and Leicester and Duke of Northumberland, to the West Indies, 1594-95. Narrated by Capt. Wyatt, by Himself, and by Abram Kendall, Master. Edited by George F. Warner. (Hakluyt Society.)—It was surely a happy sense of contrast which led the Council

of the Society to issue as companion volumes the lively and characteristic exploits of the Elizabethan gallant, and Mr. Rockhill's scholarly and exhaustive edition of the thirteenth-century monk of Rubruk. Side by side with the hero's own account of his voyage, written originally for his kinsman Richard Hakluyt, and reprinted from the not too accessible 'Voyages,' two other narratives are given, the one by Abram Kendall the pilot, and the other by Capt. Wyatt, one of the military officers of the expedition. Of the former document the original has disappeared, but having been incorporated by Dudley into his 'Arcano del Mare' (the work composed during his later Italian career), it is here re-translated. Both the subsidiary narratives corroborate Dudley's in all essentials, though, as the editor points out, Dudley's inordinate vanity may have introduced some few exaggerations into his version of Kendall's account. The whole is sufficiently and not too copiously annotated, but with much care and judgment. Thus in the case of Wyatt's narrative, at once the fullest and most flowery of the three, the explanations of nautical and other technical terms enable the reader clearly to follow and realize the conditions of a sea-fight of the period. The familiar characteristics of the better class of Elizabethan adventurer come out in many a racy sentence of Wyatt's: fine seamanship, disregard of danger from the enemy, strong, simple religious feeling, and above all else detestation of the Spaniard and all his works. It is excellent "general" reading. The interest of the narrative is not lessened, though its importance is perhaps overshadowed, by the work of Raleigh immediately after, on the same ground, viz., the Island of Trinidad and the neighbouring mainland of Guiana. In truth, the interest of the volume is largely biographical. In spite of some grave faults of character Robert Dudley was a striking personality. With the precocity of his time he had organized and led his expedition to the West Indies before he was of age, showing exceptional gifts as a commander, and even then most remarkable knowledge of navigation. Through his father and in his own exploits he touches history at various points, for Elizabeth and James, Cecil and Raleigh, all influence his fortunes. Yet, as Mr. Warner in his careful and comprehensive introduction reminds us, his English career, with which alone this volume is concerned, terminated at the age of thirty, though he held an active and distinguished position in Tuscany for nearly half a century after.

SHORT STORIES.

MR. EGERTON CASTLE well describes his collection of short stories as studies of character and action. The volume is entitled *Marshfield the Observer and The Death Dance* (Macmillan & Co.). The man Marshfield, as Mr. Egerton Castle reminds us, has already figured in "an early book of mine." He is a recounter of other people's experiences, and has some aptitude for his business, though he is less successful "as Chorus in the development" of the action, and it is quite uncertain what he means by "the higher transcendent flights of purely intellectual life," even when he describes it as a "rarefied life with all its artistic sensitiveness, its practical uselessness, its few but subtle joys, and its general misery." However, his stories are readable, and illustrate many of Mr. Egerton Castle's varied accomplishments. The best thing in the book is 'The Death Dance,' a story of the war in Hungary in 1849. Of this the author says:

"Although many of the characters who figured in that almost incredible episode are still living, at this distance of time I have not thought it necessary to disguise the Hungarian localities and patronymics in any way, and but very slightly the English names." The household of a great château are made to dance and romp with their executioners the night before they are to be hanged, shot, or otherwise disposed of. This remarkable collec-

tion of stories should appeal to all who enjoy good narrative.

Mr. R. Hichens includes in his new book *Tongues of Conscience* (Methuen & Co.) five separate stories, linked together by a phrase which might be taken as applying more or less to all character-stories involving the development of human action. The common motive of these rather morbid narratives is the working of a conscience—or perhaps more accurately a reminiscence, an inner consciousness or idea—which haunts and unhinges a susceptible mind, and prompts it to insane action rather than repentance and self-discipline. Perhaps conscience, as we usually understand the word, has not much to do with the themes which Mr. Hichens has selected. The stories are not commonplace by any means. We have called them morbid, but it is the morbidness of ideas translated into action, and no mere strain after a "realistic" description of repulsive thoughts and actions. In short, this volume is a collection of weird and uncanny tales, worked out with considerable ingenuity, and calculated to make an imaginative reader shiver and read on.

Stories and Reminiscences. By a Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired). (Liverpool, Howell.)—This purports to be a collection of stories told by an uncle to nephews. These stories would probably amuse boys if administered in small doses, but they were scarcely worth publishing in book form. Still they are readable, notably one called 'The Last Marquis of Larochefajacuelin,' in which figure, under the name of Baron Grabbe, the late Baron Albert Grant and De Morny, variously styled by the author "Count" and "Duke." Another good story is one about Horace Vernet and a French corporal. The author, however, is occasionally a little inexact in military matters, which is scarcely excusable in a retired lieutenant-colonel. In some stories of a friend's experiences in the Crimea the narrator is made to say that at the siege of Sebastopol there were stockades at the advanced posts. Stockades would have soon been knocked to pieces by the Russian artillery; besides, timber was very scarce, and as a matter of fact there were no stockades in our parallels or approaches. Neither can we understand the statement that the reserves were, on the final attack on the Redan, drawn up under a wall. A lieutenant-colonel, even if retired, should scarcely call a parapet a wall. Again, the lieutenant-colonel is incorrect in a foot-note in which he explains that fascines are "tall wickerwork baskets, four to five feet high, filled with earth." A reference to any elementary work on fortifications would have taught him that a fascine is a long faggot and that gabions are wickerwork baskets, and that their height is three feet, not four to five feet.

Tales of the Pampas. By William Bulfin. (Fisher Unwin.)—These tales appear to present a good picture of life on the sheep runs and cattle ranches of the Argentine Republic. As stories they do very well to indicate the sort of humour that suits wild life, hard work, and high spirits. The details are rather difficult to make out, as the author does not always explain the Spanish technical words he uses so freely. Still one can read the tales and gladly believe them to be as true as they are vigorous.

EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE.

The Work of the London School Board. By Thomas Alfred Spalding, assisted by Thomas Stanley Alfred Canney. (King & Son.)—"This volume has been prepared for presentation at the Paris Exhibition" by the direction of Lord Reay, Chairman of the Board, but it will be found interesting by a considerable number of readers in this country as well as by specialists abroad. The School Board for London is not a popular institution, partly because the amount of rate for which it is responsible is generally increasing, and partly

because the ordinary ratepayer understands but little of its working; indeed, Lord Reay admits that his countrymen "find it impossible, owing to the voluminous character of the Board's official publications, to obtain in a convenient form an account of the Board's work." Moreover, the Board always contains a certain number of vociferous enthusiasts whose vagaries, both in religious and secular matters, concerning elementary instruction are simply irritating. Perusal of this account of what has been effected in elementary instruction within the area of the London School Board since the passing of Mr. Forster's Act in 1870 shows the magnitude of the task undertaken, and to a large extent accomplished by the Board, as well as the extreme difficulty of the conditions under which the work has been done. The account, compiled from official statistics, is no doubt perfectly accurate, and it is written throughout with striking fairness and moderation. No attempt is made unduly to exalt the work of the Board or minimize that of any other agency for the maintenance of schools in London; and the impression one derives is that less grateful recognition has been accorded to the labours of the Board than they deserve. The administrative burden laid on the School Board at its creation in 1870 was extremely heavy, and it has increased year by year, and is still increasing. The sum expended annually in London upon elementary education equals the total national expenditure of Denmark, Norway, or Switzerland, and the number of children for whom it is expended is now 785,000. The voluntary system found itself unable to cope with the educational requirements of London, which "was more in arrear in the matter of school provision than any other part of the kingdom." Part I. is devoted to the history of elementary education throughout the country, and shows how much more liberal was the supply of education—primary and secondary—before the Reformation than after it. Indeed, the effect of the Reformation was to inflict a check upon the progress of education, and primary schools, at any rate, remained sadly few and inefficient until they received the fostering care of the National Society and the British and Foreign School Society, and some years later the Catholic Institute. Government for the first time came to the help of schools in 1834. Many interesting pages recount the difficulties of various kinds which the School Board had to overcome before school accommodation was sufficient for the population of London—a point which seems to have been reached in the last decade; and an encouraging account of educational progress is given in the first chapter of the third part of the volume. In the third part the reader may inform himself accurately of the daily work in Board schools of different kinds and grades. He may learn what the daily routine is in schools for elder children, infants, and scholars seeking education of a higher grade; and the word-pictures presented to us of well-appointed class-rooms, sympathetic teachers, and eager, happy scholars, are pleasant. The teaching of special subjects of instruction—science, drawing, manual instruction, cookery, physical education, and the like—is taken in hand by specialists, who afford the reader an insight into the methods adopted, and help him to realize the results gained. In considering the advantages conferred on the children of London we are apt to forget the abnormal ones—weaklings in mind and body—who cannot keep up with their schoolfellows in class, or to whom, by reason of infirmity, progress is well-nigh impossible. The total number of children of this unhappy kind—blind, deaf, defective—is great in the population of London; it now approaches 2,200. These children receive such training as is possible for them in special schools, and in many cases they are enabled "to undertake simple employments, and are

thus rescued from the life of hopelessness and misery which would otherwise have been their portion." Board schools are at work in the evening as well as during the day. The Recreative Evening Schools Association co-operated vigorously and successfully with the School Board for about ten years from 1885 in the promotion of evening classes. The number of scholars of both sexes in evening continuation schools has risen to 109,121, and their attention is devoted to special instruction in "commercial subjects," science, and art. These evening continuation schools are a most satisfactory outcome of the work of the School Board. They seem to show that the day schools are turning out many scholars who are conscious of the practical value of advanced instruction, and are willing to take some trouble and face some difficulty in acquiring it, as well as many who, we hope, love learning for its own sake.

Early Childhood. By Margaret M'Millan. (Sonnenschein & Co.)—"Early Childhood" is evidently the work of one who knows and loves children and has made a special study of primary education. In spite of all the wise things that have been said on this all-important subject, the education of young children, rich and poor, is still carried on in a haphazard fashion. Miss M'Millan's exhaustive treatment of the problem includes much sound practical advice, and the chapter on feeble-minded children in particular ought to be very helpful to those whose work lies among "these poor disinherited members of our human family." "Early Childhood" bids fair to be a valuable book, and we heartily commend it to mothers and teachers.

REPRINTS.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN are going to publish in their "Illustrated Standard Novels," which have justly secured a good reputation, the Leatherstocking Tales of Fenimore Cooper. Of these the first, *The Last of the Mohicans*, is now out, introduced by Mr. Mowbray Morris and illustrated by Mr. H. M. Brook. The artist's performances are unequal; he has, however, succeeded in making the ladies of the story more charming than we had ever pictured them from Cooper's jejune account. Mr. Morris is rather too inclined to lean on other opinions. He has, apparently, missed the severe denunciation of Cooper which Mark Twain produced. It is not wholly fair, but it contains some charges which ought to be endorsed or answered by an introducer, who has, presumably, some special knowledge of his subject. Much is, as is here pointed out, indefensible in Cooper, but the references to the wickedness of modern style and smartness are overdone.

The Adventures of Sir Launcelot Greaves have appeared in the large-paper edition of Smollett (Constable). The hero does not lack wit, but his merits are rather too copiously rewarded, and the story cannot compare, either in structure or character-study, with Smollett's greater performances.

The Book of Snobs, and other Papers, is now to be had in the "New Century Library" (Nelson). We are glad to find that arrangements have been made for a complete issue of Thackeray's works in this convenient form.

The Surrey and Wyatt Anthology and the *Goldsmith Anthology* appear together (Frowde). King Henry VIII. figures in the first, and William Pitt in the second. An interesting poem only extant in one manuscript is Gavin Douglas's "King Heart," which is supplied with a marginal glossary, much of which is surely unnecessary after the dose of Scotch novels and dialect which the reading public has got through. Mr. Arber is as usual indefatigable, but his glossaries in general suppose a rather low rate of general intelligence, ignorance of a word, for instance, common in the Bible.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Two magnificent-looking volumes reach us from Messrs. Hutchinson & Co. under the title *Lord Rosebery, his Life and Speeches*, by Mr. Thomas Coates. They are of the character which may be expected in such a publication—a little over-uniformly eulogistic. For example, in discussing the tenure of the Foreign Office by Lord Rosebery, Mr. Coates says: "A firm dispatch to Russia regarding the freedom of the port of Batoum showed the mettle he was made of, and that the 'squeezability' which has been the fault of more than one of our Foreign Ministers of late years was no part of his constitution." Unfortunately, the solemn assurance with regard to Batoum volunteered by Russia had not been kept, and has not been maintained by the Foreign Office, so that we rather fail to see where the firmness asserted itself—detractors would be inclined to say, Only in the form of an ineffective grumble. The arguments of the author in defence of his hero are, of course, too strictly political for our pages. We are only concerned with the execution of his project, which is fairly good, although the index is extremely feeble—a great drawback in volumes of the kind. Perhaps, if the index had been well attended to, we should not have found on p. 663 Mr. J. Spencer Balfour figuring along with Mr. Perks as one of the principal authors of the Newcastle Programme, and on p. 670 (with the name of Jabez) described, as though he had not been previously named, as "formerly a Liberal M.P." The volumes are suitable for the purpose for which they are designed.

MESSRS. HODDER & STOUGHTON send us *The Earl of Rosebery, K.G.: an Illustrated Biography*, by Jane T. Stoddart. This is a gift-book of the ordinary kind, and it is not likely to appeal to politicians or serious students of history.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN & Co. publish *South African Studies*, by Mr. Alfred Hillier, a book which is now a little out of date, as it is upon the lines of several attacks upon the extinct South African Republic which we have previously reviewed. It does not appear to us to contain anything which cannot be found in such works as that of Mrs. Phillips.

The Story of the Chinese Crisis. By Alexis Krausse. (Cassell & Co.)—Recent events have moved so rapidly in China, and the nature of the changes involved has been so kaleidoscopic, that it is well to possess ready to hand a chronicle of their sequence, and a record of the actual facts. These the present work supplies in a form which constitutes it a valuable book of reference to all interested in the circumstances which have led up to the present crisis. The author begins at the beginning of foreign intercourse with China, and sketches the course of political events from the time of Marco Polo down to the present day. These earlier chapters are useful, but the main value of the book consists of the portion which deals with the present complications. He considers that the seizure of Kiaochow by the Germans, followed as it was by the occupation of Port Arthur by the Russians and of Wei-Hai-Wei by ourselves, gave the first impulse to the anti-foreign movement which has led to such dire results. In this we agree with him, although for some years, and more especially since the usurpation of power by the Dowager Empress, there had been an increasing desire on the part of the Manchu clique to measure their strength with that of the outer barbarians. But there can be no doubt that this feeling was accentuated by the seizure of the ports above named, and that the unfortunate title of Lord Charles Beresford's book, which was translated into Chinese and circulated among the official classes, did much to add fuel to the flames. Political agitators eagerly seized on these weapons to stir up a popular feeling in accordance with their views, and maps of the empire which showed the country partitioned among

the greedy nations of the West were freely distributed throughout the inland provinces. The results of this movement are well known, and are clearly and faithfully recorded in these pages. But political prophesying is always dangerous, and the author's views of the future, though there are those who agree with him, will not be universally accepted. He shares with Mr. Colquhoun the view that Manchuria and the north of China have practically fallen into the hands of Russia, and that the destiny of the empire is that it should break up and suffer dismemberment at the hands of the European Powers. Yet threatened states, like threatened men, live long, and the very fact that a keen jealousy exists among the Western Powers on all matters relating to China is the best safeguard she can have for the continuance of her existence. In Europe Turkey presents a parallel instance to that afforded by China, and we have seen how that sick man has outlived ailments which have long threatened to bring his life to a close. The same cause in China will produce the same result, and the presence of the Powers in force on the spot is a better security for the integrity of the empire than could be afforded by any protocols or conventions providing for the safety of the State. In present circumstances the danger of Russian interference with the geography of China is decidedly remote. She must be perfectly aware that the Powers would never sanction any encroachment upon the "eighteen provinces," and with her hands full, as they already are, and are likely to be for many years, she would think thrice before risking a step which would bring about a combination against her. But apart from these matters of opinion, the present work will be recognized as a most useful record, and as a book of reference will be found invaluable to all concerned in Eastern politics.

THE Government Printing Office at Washington has continued to publish in parts *A French-English Military Technical Dictionary*, by Lieut. Wilcox, of the United States army, of which we have already noticed a part, and of which the concluding pages are now in our hands. The volume is extraordinarily full as compared with previous books of the same kind. Everything that ought to be in it is in it, but a great deal is also in it which has little or no connexion with war. Still it will be found most valuable. The author does not appear to have much notion of a joke. He includes every kind of military slang, and occasionally, but very rarely, notes that it is slang, but often entirely fails to point this out, thus achieving somewhat ludicrous results. Those who look for things belonging to the Polytechnique will find only one entry indexed in the neighbourhood of that word, and no cross-reference to *x*; but under *x* will be found six entries, all of them relating to the Polytechnique. In French military slang "*piocher l'x*" means to study mathematics, and everything that has to do with the Polytechnique is generally classed as "*x*." The compiler treats this perhaps a little too seriously. Still these are small blemishes, and the end in view is that everything should be in the book and capable of being discovered by search, and this has been attained.

THE Columbia University Press publish (the Macmillan Company being agents, and in London Messrs. King & Son) a *History of Military Pension Legislation in the United States*, by Dr. W. H. Glasson. We have not much to learn from the United States in this connexion, except for the purpose of avoiding the errors which have been committed there. The enormous waste of money which has occurred in that country in connexion with pension legislation forms an admitted scandal. Here we have not yet reached the point of even granting fully and in all cases those pensions which in his concluding criticism of the pension system Mr. Glasson considers "to merit general approval." The House of

Commons, indeed, carried unanimously in the last session, on the motion of Mr. Reginald McKenna, a resolution for the general application, with modifications, of the principles of the Workmen's Compensation Act to deaths and wounds in the military service of the Crown. The Government have promised immediate improvement, but have not gone so far as to accept completely the resolution.

THE reader of M. André Lebey's *Essai sur Laurent de Médicis* (Paris, Perrin) will gather from it that the author hates Christianity and democracy, and has a sharp eye for a bit of indecent gossip or anecdote. That he knows much of the history of the period is, perhaps, not quite so obvious. He quotes a well-known remark of Commynes ("Commynes" he calls him) about Pietro the son of Lorenzo with reference to Pietro his father, not seeing that as applied to the elder man it is nonsense. We should like to know his authority for the statement that Pico della Mirandola's treatise 'Adversus Astrologos' was written at Lorenzo's request. Incidentally he credits Lorenzo with a good deal even of posthumous influence, for he makes him the promoter of the marriage of Caterina Sforza to Giovanni de' Medici six years after he had left this world. To compensate for his amalgamations of other persons he speaks of "Hawwood" (sic) and "Giovanni Acuto" in a way which shows he believes them to be different individuals. The affair of Pietra Santa in September, 1484 (not 1841, as our essayist has it), is told in such a confused way that it is hard to say whether the writer himself understands what happened. The same may be said of his account of Lorenzo's scheme of taxation, where he writes "gravo" for *sgravo*, and repeatedly "dispaciente" for *dispiacente*, evidently not knowing the real meaning of either word. Indeed, his spelling of Italian words and names makes one suspect that few of the authorities whose titles fill five pages at the end of the book can be known to him save in a French translation. Thus it is, perhaps, of less consequence that he sets Savonarola down as a "moine immonde," and glorifies while he grossly exaggerates Lorenzo's apparent neglect of his wife. Perhaps the "Magnifico" will sink in his estimation when he learns that he was, for those times, a reasonably attentive and affectionate husband. More, perhaps, has been said about a worthless book than was necessary, but there is a tendency in some quarters to think that because an historical study is written in French it must have special merits. That much good and solid historical work is turned out in France one would not for a moment deny, but it does not proceed from the kind of Michelet-cum-décadent school which M. Lebey appears to represent.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS. ENGLISH.

- Theology.*
Bevan (F.), *The Last Parable of Ezekiel*, cr. 8vo. 2/6 net.
Bowen (Hon. W. E.), *The Crisis in the English Church*, 5/
Diggle (J. W.), *Short Studies in Holiness*, 12mo. 3/6
Fullerton (W. Y.), *Christ and Men*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 net.
Gibson (B. J.), *Visionaries*, and other Sermons, 2/6 net.
St. Augustine, *Thirteen Homilies on St. John xiv.*, Translations by H. F. Stewart, cr. 8vo. 4/
Savonarola, *Meditations on Psalm II. and part of Psalm xxxi.* in Latin, trans. by H. E. Perowne, fcap. 4to. 10/6 net.
Williams (C.), *The Evolution of Faith*, and other Sermons, cr. 8vo. 2/6 net.
- Law.*
Corgan (T. A.), *The Law relating to Schools and Teachers*, cr. 8vo. bds. 2/6 net.
- Fine Art and Archaeology.*
Bridgman-Metchim (D.), *Atlantis, the Book of the Angels*, roy. 8vo. 10/6 net.
Farmiloe (E.), *Chapel Street Children*, cr. 8vo. 5/
Gibby (Sir W.), *Animal Painters of England from 1650*, 2 vols. imp. 8vo. 42/ net.
Gollwag's Polar Adventures (The), Verses by Bertha Upton, Pictures by F. K. Upton, oblong folio, 6/
Friuli-Bon (Contessa), *Sodoma*, cr. 8vo. 5/ net.
Williamson (G. C.), *George J. Pinwell and his Works*, 21/ net.
- Poetry and the Drama.*
Begbie (H.), *The Handy Man*, and other Verses, cr. 8vo. 3/6
Coleridge (S. T.), *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, illustrated by H. Cole, imp. 16mo. 5/ net.
Lullabies and Baby Songs, collected by A. L. J. Gossett, 8vo. 3/3 net.

- Miles (A. H.), *Rigmaroles and Nursery Rhymes for Young People*, roy. 8vo. 5/
Robertson (J. L.), *English Drama*, cr. 8vo. 2/6
Ryder (M.), *Elocution and Stage Training*, roy. 8vo. 5/ net.
Songs of Modern Greece, with Translation and Notes by G. F. Abbott, roy. 16mo. 5/ net.

Bibliography.

- Browne (H. G.), *A Hand-List of the Muhammadan Manuscripts in the Library of the University of Cambridge*, 8vo. 15/

History and Biography.

- Clavière (R. de M. la), *The Women of the Renaissance*, translated by G. H. Ely, roy. 8vo. 10/6
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THE HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION. THE HATFIELD PAPERS.

FOR the third time, as the editor remarks, a whole volume of more than six hundred pages is devoted to the papers of a single year. At first sight this somewhat liberal allowance might appear to be partly due in the present instance to the use of larger type; but the real cause of this comparatively slow rate of progress will probably be found in the fulness of the abstracts. It is scarcely necessary to observe that such an exhaustive method of description is of the highest advantage to students, especially in the case of private collections which are practically inaccessible to the public.

The documents included in this eighth instalment of the Hatfield manuscripts are those for the year 1598. This was a momentous year in several respects, for abroad it witnessed the death of Philip II. of Spain, the Peace of Vervins, and the Edict of Nantes. In England it is memorable for Tyrone's Irish rebellion and for the death of Lord Burghley himself. With this last event, however, there is no cessation in the interest of the Hatfield manuscripts. The last letter written by Burghley is dated July 10th, but it is not preserved in the family collection, which nevertheless contains occasional reports of the great minister's state of health to within a few days of his death. For a long time past the principal figure in this correspondence has been the younger Cecil, and, apart from the numerous personal references to his father's merits and long services to the State which naturally find a place in this volume, the fact is strikingly demonstrated by the contemporary reports of State affairs which received Sir Robert's attention.

These are conveniently discussed in the editorial introduction under such headings as 'Ireland,' 'The United Provinces,' 'France,' and 'Borders of Scotland,' and here we find a number of most valuable State Papers which must, of course, be studied in connexion with the official series now in the Record Office and others that are preserved in public libraries. Perhaps the most interesting of the Hatfield series are the Treaty Papers relating to Sir Robert Cecil's mission to France in this year, though many of these have been already printed. Their reproduction here will, however, be useful to many students, and some notice of these papers was desirable in connexion with a number of foreign advices of slighter importance which are published for the first time. For the same reason we may welcome the extensive correspondence relating to the affairs of the Low Countries, although these practically form part of the Foreign State Papers in official custody, and will have to be taken into account when Mr. Butler's important calendar reaches this

period of the reign. A curious correspondence between the Earl of Essex and John Colville, a Scotch spy on the Continent, is preserved here, and contains a project for the betrayal of a certain fortress to the English which would give them command of Calais.

One of the most important papers in this volume contains the text of the articles presented by the Society of Merchants Adventurers to the States General in reference to their contemplated settlement in the Low Countries, with the marginal answers returned by the latter. There are several other notices of English commerce in this report which are, perhaps, more deserving of attention than much of the political tittle-tattle which is so attractive to the general reader. The index is exceptionally full, and forms in itself a complete guide to the contents of this excellent report.

M. ADOLPHE HATZFELD.

THE death at the end of last week of this distinguished scholar is a considerable loss to French learning. Adolphe Hatzfeld was born in Paris in 1824. He was of Jewish birth, but at a very early stage of his career he embraced Roman Catholicism. One of his earliest published works was an essay on the 'Republic' of Plato (1850). In 1864 he conducted the *Revue Critique et Bibliographique*; three years later he edited a seventeenth-century translation of the 'Imitation de Jésus-Christ,' with the Latin text opposite. Hatzfeld's fame as a compiler will rest on the several books which he produced in collaboration with the late Arsène Darmesteter (who died on November 16th, 1888), a brother of the late M. James Darmesteter. Two of them which bear their joint names have achieved a very great popularity. The earlier of these, "Morceaux Choisis" of the sixteenth century (1876), ran into a fourth edition in about ten years. 'Le Seizième Siècle en France' first appeared in 1878, and has also run into several editions, and has been crowned by the Académie. But the great work of these two authors, master and pupil, is the 'Dictionnaire Général de la Langue Française,' from the beginning of the seventeenth century to the present time. This highly laborious and scholarly work was commenced in 1870 or 1871, and the compilers expected to finish it in four years, but it actually occupied nearly thirty years, and was, in fact, only concluded just in time to receive the Grand Prix which was awarded to it in the present Exposition. For very many years M. Hatzfeld was Professor of Rhetoric at the Lycée Louis-le-Grand, and many of his innumerable pupils have achieved distinction in various walks of life—in letters, in the arts, and in politics—and all his scholars were deeply attached to their old master. In 1885 he edited an edition of the sermons of Bourdaloue.

W. R.

THE ORIGIN OF "DUDE."

GRIMM, 'Deutsche Mythologie,' p. 431, note 2, à propos of the "dumme dutton," cites *dod = geck*, which is nearer to the current slang signification of *dude*. Have we not the same root in *doodle*? and is it necessary to assume such a recent German origin as does Prof. Skeat?

What is the current pronunciation of the word in America—*dood* or *dyood*? If the latter, as in England, Prof. Skeat's suggestion is open to doubt.

By-the-by, is *geck* possibly connected with the Viennese term for macaroni, dandy, swell, masher, *dude*, *petit-crevé*, *pschutteux*—i.e. *gigerl*? to my mind the most expressive term of the whole series.

ALFRED NUTT.

HORACE WALPOLE'S LETTERS.

MRS. PAGET TOYNBEE, having undertaken to prepare for the Clarendon Press a new edition of the 'Letters of Horace Walpole,' would be greatly obliged if owners of original letters, whether already printed or not, would kindly communicate with her, in order that the new edition may be made as complete and correct as possible. Many of the letters as hitherto printed are either fragmentary or disfigured by misreadings, and it is desirable that they should be corrected by collation with the originals. Mrs. Toynbee has already succeeded in collecting from various sources nearly two hundred letters which are not included in current editions, and it is probable that there are many others in private hands which she has not yet been able to trace. Any letters entrusted to her would be treated with scrupulous care, and returned to their owners as promptly as possible. To those who are unable to lend the originals Mrs. Toynbee would be grateful for careful copies. All obligations of this nature would, of course, be duly acknowledged by the editor. It is expected that the new edition, which will be provided with a full index, will be completed in ten or eleven octavo volumes.

Communications should be addressed to Mrs. Paget Toynbee, Dorney Wood, Burnham, Bucks.

THE COMING PUBLISHING SEASON.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD'S autumn list includes: The Englishman in China, a Life of Sir Rutherford Alcock, by A. Michie.—Lord Rosslyn's Twice Captured.—The Cinque Ports, by F. M. Hueffer.—Sir John Mowbray's Reminiscences.—Scotland since 1745, by Sir H. Craik.—Lord Jim, by J. Conrad.—Helena Faucit, by her Husband.—A History of Criticism, by Prof. Saintsbury: Vol. I. Classical and Mediæval.—A History of Rhodesia, by H. Hensman.—How We Escaped from Pretoria, by Capt. Haldane.—The New House of Commons, by A. Kinnear.—Modern Strategy, by Capt. W. H. James.—new instalments of the collected edition of G. W. Stevens's books.—A King's Pawn, by H. Drummond.—Khurasan and Sistan, by Lieut.-Col. C. E. Yate.—The Early Renaissance, by Prof. Saintsbury.—Thackeray, by Charles Whibley.—The Sovereignty of the Sea, by T. W. Fulton.—A Scholar of his College, by W. E. W. Collins.—The Arms of the Baronial and Police Burghs of Scotland, by the late Marquess of Bute, J. H. Stevenson, and H. W. Lonsdale.—Horace in Homespun, by H. Haliburton.—A Handy Vocabulary of English and Africander.—and several new editions of popular volumes. In Educational Books: A Short History of the Ancient Greeks, by P. Giles; and Outlines of Greek History, by the same.—Manual of Greek Prose Composition, by Gilbert Murray.—Manual of Classical Geography, by J. L. Myres.—Aristophanes, Peace, edited by H. Sharpley.—Lower Greek Unseens, edited by W. Lobban.—Milton, Lycidas, and other Shorter Poems, edited by C. J. Battersby.—Pope, Rape of the Lock, and other Poems, edited by G. Soutar.—Hazlitt, English Poets, by D. Nichol Smith.—several new volumes of the "Illustrated Classical Texts,"—A History of German Literature, by J. G. Robertson; and Outlines of German Literature, by the same.—Historical Reader of Early French, by Prof. H. A. Strong and L. Barnett.—A Handbook of Rhetoric and Composition, by J. Lobban.—Specimens of Middle Scots, by G. Gregory Smith.—Physical Maps for History Students, by B. V. Darbishire.—and other volumes.

Messrs. Frederick Warne & Co. have in the press a number of new editions of popular works with which the reputation of the firm is identified, such as an *édition de luxe* of Mr. Walter Crane's Picture Book, comprising The Baby's Opera, The Baby's Bouquet, and The Baby's Own Æsop.

EDWARD IV. AND HIS "BENEVOLENCES."

West View, Pinner, Oct. 6, 1900.

THE letter from the archives of Milan, of which a translation is published in this day's *Athenæum*, is exceedingly interesting as a fuller illustration of what was already known about Edward IV.'s method of personally soliciting "benevolences" for the war against France. Your readers I daresay will not object, for the purposes of comparison, to peruse the familiar extract in Hall's 'Chronicle' in which the same process is described:—

"And because no small sum of money was sufficient for so great a charge, and that the money the year before to him advanced by the realm was consumed in his household and other necessary affairs, he conceived a new device in his imagination, by the which engine he might correctly persuade and entice his rich friends to give and grant him some convenient sum of money towards his inestimable charges and incredible costs; which thing if they did not willingly assent to, he then would impute to them the greater ingratitude and more unkindness. Whereupon he caused his officers to bring to him the most rich persons, one after another. And to them he explained the cause and the purpose and the necessity of the war begun, and the faintness and leanness of his treasure, and the great and importune lack of money, heartily requiring them, for their love and affection that always they had borne to him, being their natural price, of their own gratuity and free will to give him some aid of money, for maintenance of his war and army. What should I say more? This invention came to this effect, that some, calling to their remembrance the benefits of him received, some with shame, some with fear, moved and encouraged, gave to him liberally both of their substance and treasure, which without grudge he could not have otherwise obtained. But here I will not let pass a pretty conceit that happened in this gathering, in the which ye shall not only note the humility of a king, but more the fantasie of a woman. King Edward had called before him a widow, much abounding in substance, and no less grown in years, of whom he merrily demanded what she gladly would give him towards his great charges. 'By my truth,' quoth she, 'for thy lovely countenance thou shalt have even 20*l*.' The King, looking scarce for the half of that sum, thanked her and lovingly kissed her. Where the flavour of his breath did so comfort her stomach, or she esteemed the kiss of a king so precious a jewel, she swore incontinently that he should have 20*l* more, which she with the same will paid that she offered it."

This is quite in agreement with what the Italian writer in London says at the time as to the effect of King Edward's very winning manners. But it should be noted that the date given to the letter must be due to a misreading. The year given, not only by Hall, but by the Croyland Continuator, as that in which benevolences were first urged was 1473, but no doubt they were going on in 1474. The actual invasion of France, however, took place in 1475, when, as is well known, the king at once made a very profitable peace. It is quite impossible, therefore, that he could have been soliciting benevolences and making preparations against France in March, 1476.

JAMES GAIRDNER.

Literary Gossip.

DR. MORRISON has written a consecutive account of the siege of the Foreign Legations at Peking. The *Times*, it is understood, is preparing a map of the Legation grounds to accompany it.

MRS. JANET ROSS, whose 'Three Generations of Englishwomen' has found favour with readers, is now engaged on a history of the ancient villas of Florence and its neighbourhood.

THE materials for a biography of Lord Russell of Killowen are well in hand. A diary kept in America includes, among other interesting matter, the late Lord Chief Justice's impressions of a visit to Salt Lake City, where his powers as a

cross-examiner were brought to bear upon certain professors of Mormonism. Another document of interest contains Lord Russell's views on the procedure of the Dreyfus trial, at several sittings of which he was an alert and watchful spectator. Mr. Barry O'Brien hopes to complete his task as biographer within the space of a year.

MR. JUSTICE MATHEW will contribute the record of the late Lord Chief Justice's career to the supplementary volume of the 'Dictionary of National Biography.'

MR. F. LL. GRIFFITH'S 'Stories of the High Priests of Memphis—the Sethon of Herodotus and the Demotic Tales of Khamuas' are on the eve of publication by the Clarendon Press. The volume is divided into two parts—historical and literary, and philological—and with it will be issued an atlas containing facsimiles of the Demotic text of the second tale.

ANOTHER second-hand bookseller has received a six months' sentence for selling indecent literature, and probably no one—except the culprit—will be sorry for it. It seems a most extraordinary thing that one or two booksellers should persist in a trade which they must know will, sooner or later, land them in the dock. Previous examples should have taught them that no magistrate in London will take a lenient view of their case. The profits on indecent books are well known to be enormous; but, with an occasional six months in jail, the business cannot be a paying one. The authorities appear to be waking up to the fact that a large trade is done in London in this class of book, and they are to be commended, for once, on the successful issue of their prosecution.

THE late Marquis of Bute was a munificent friend to the Scottish universities. He presented the Bute Hall to Glasgow, and a month or two ago he provided 20,000*l.* for a Chair of Anatomy in the University of St. Andrews. Some years ago he wished the Roman Catholic bishops of Scotland to educate candidates for priests' orders at St. Andrews, but they would not fall in with the idea. The Marquis also did a good deal for antiquarian literature. He bore the chief part of the expense of the publications of the Grampian Club. At the time his illness commenced, in the beginning of last year, he was busy preparing a new edition of his book on the official arms of the Scottish burghs.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—

"Lord Bute was an author of amazing industry in detail, which the general reader might easily miss. What George Eliot said of her translation of Strauss—that she began it young and finished it old—he quoted of himself in regard to his rendering into English of the Latin Breviary. It was the almost daily task of nearly a decade of years, notes being supplied throughout with infinite pains, and the renderings of Scripture made under a double and difficultly adjusted responsibility to the English reader and to the translations bearing the imprimatur of ecclesiastical authority. His love of Eastern Churches induced him to study Coptic, so that he might translate some of the offices peculiar to that rite. Nor were his services of interpreter all one-sided, for in a private letter lying before me, dated from Mount Stuart in the January of 1890, he mentions with pleasure that an article of his upon Patmos, contributed to the *Scottish Review*, had been translated into

Greek, and published at Odessa, evidently by a Patmiote, who had local experience, and who added some useful notes. Lord Bute, who once had a hand of his own in a Welsh newspaper, but only for a brief time, was not a great lover of the daily press. Nor did he extend a welcome to religious journals, even those of his own communion. He thought that their manners and methods made for sectarianism. Perhaps at times he felt an answering coldness in their columns towards himself. Great contributions to secular universities were not always good reading to his coreligionists, who were in the act of rearing, as it were with bricks without straw, their denominational institutions. They did care a straw, and at times they showed it. Once, indeed, a little hubbub was raised about a subscription said to have been made by Lord Bute towards the publication of Wycliffe's works. Paragraphs went the round of the press, and it was after reading one of them in a local paper that he wrote to a friend:—

"No one was more surprised than I myself to see in the papers that I had subscribed to the fund for publishing Wiclif's works. But it occurs to me that there exists an historical-literary society called the Wiclif Society, as it dedicates itself to printing his and other contemporary English works. If it exists, it is not unlikely that I may be a subscriber to it, as I am to other societies which print mediæval things. Publications of this sort go straight into the hands of my librarian, and as the centre of the library is in our house in London, which never was furnished, and which my father's executors rented just to keep his books and pictures in, I seldom come across them, unless I specially ask for them. This I have never done as regards Wiclif, for I have been content with Lechler's 'Life,' which contains copious extracts from his works, MS. as well as printed. His works are certainly of much historical interest, and if people would only read them before they talk about him, we should not hear as much nonsense about him and his acts and opinions as we do. If we are to abstain from printing matter of literary and historical interest because we do not agree with the sentiments expressed, philological and historical science would finish. I should subscribe without scruple to publish a critical text of Arius's 'Thalia' if anybody could find a codex. Wiclif is in the same case with Luther, John Knox, Savonarola, and others—people never read their works or even look at them before they talk about them. As to Wiclif, he no doubt fell into errors, but I believe that he intended and believed himself to be a perfectly orthodox and devout Catholic priest, and that he was very little more of a Protestant than you or I."

A NEW novel, entitled 'Love in a Mist,' by Miss Olive Birrell, the sister of Mr. Augustine Birrell, will be published by Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. on October 26th. Miss Birrell's previous stories, 'The Ambition of Judith' and 'Anthony Langsyde,' have attracted some attention.

THE Rev. Edmond Nolan, one of the clergy attached to St. Edmund's House of Studies for Roman Catholic Clerics at Cambridge, has in preparation a volume which will somewhat affect popular notions as to the date at which Greek was commonly taught at the English universities. Father Nolan has found a manuscript Greek grammar, which he is about to reprint, along with evidence which shows that it was composed for current use by Friar Roger Bacon!

THE publication of Dr. Conan Doyle's work 'The Great Boer War' has been fixed for October 23rd.

MR. W. HEINEMANN, writing from Paris on Tuesday last, says:—

"I notice in this morning's *New York Herald* a suggestion, emanating from Prof. Dowden and endorsed by Sir Walter Besant, proposing the composition of an elaborate history of English literature. May I be allowed to state that I have had for several years in active preparation a large illustrated history of English literature, written jointly by Mr. Richard Garnett and Mr. Edmund Gosse, the first volume of which will, I hope, appear before the end of 1901?"

IN our issue of September 29th we announced a book for early publication by Mr. Fisher Unwin, which had the curious title of 'Four Ounces to the Dish.' Mr. Unwin informs us that Mr. M. J. MacMahon, who was mentioned as the author, is an artist, and it is his brother, Mr. Thomas MacMahon, who is well known in New Zealand journalistic circles, who has written the book. Mr. M. J. MacMahon, however, is contributing a frontispiece.

BARBOUR'S 'Bruce' is likely to engage some little critical attention, for its literary position as well as its historical standing is at stake. Mr. J. T. T. Brown's 'The Wallace and the Bruce Restudied,' recently announced, will present a new sceptical opinion. Mr. George Neilson's essay 'John Barbour, Poet and Translator,' now promised by Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co., proceeds from the received basis of the orthodox archdeacon of Aberdeen, while assigning to him the authorship of the remarkable translation 'The Buik of Alexander,' a poem which contains so many scores of lines occurring also in 'The Bruce.'

DR. LOUIS BRANDIN, late Lecturer in French at the University of Greifswald, has just been elected to the Chair of Modern Languages in the Hartley College, Southampton. Dr. Brandin is a former pupil of the École des Chartes and of M. Gaston Paris, and a first cousin of the late Arsène Darmesteter.

THE Vereinigung der schweizerischen Bibliothekare, which was founded in 1896, held its fourth yearly meeting at Bern on September 30th, under the presidency of Dr. Chr. Bernoulli. Dr. John Bernoulli, the Keeper of the Swiss Landesbibliothek, announced his intention to begin next year the issue of a regular *Litterarische Statistik* of new publications in Switzerland.

SCIENCE

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Locust Plague and its Suppression. By Æneas Munro, M.D. (Murray.)—This is a voluminous, an extraordinary, and in its wide information a useful book. The author more than once states the opinion that "there is no work dealing fully with the subject published"; but he is still able to quote largely from other workers, while the Americans possess almost a literature on the subject, and a volume on the 'Rocky Mountain Locust.' Besides which the French have published their methods of dealing with the pest in Algeria, and the English have recorded their work and experience in India. These publications are, as a rule, written by naturalists, and from the scientific standpoint. Dr. Munro quotes some other less modern authorities on the subject, including "the distinguished St. Augustine" and the "prophet Jonah." The best method of destruc-

tion for the locust in South Africa and elsewhere is to the agriculturist an imperative question. To Dr. Munro it "opens up a great religious question," which is fully discussed, and the conclusion reached

"that while Providence permits the locusts to destroy the industry of man, who on this account ought to humble himself, yet it is not only not wrong, but also is absolutely his duty to do all in his power to save from destruction the produce which a bountiful Providence has given for sustaining himself and those creatures depending on him for existence."

But he still further sustains us in our selfish interests. "If a fly is permitted to settle on the nose, do we leave it there until the same Power removes it? Or are we wrong in using forcible means to rid ourselves of it?" &c. Consequently, it is to be presumed we may still grow our dahlias, destroy the earwigs, and, as our author expresses it, "yet be a Christian man." The value of this book is that which pertains to a somewhat indiscriminate compilation. Dr. Munro has made no original observations, nor has he, apparently, carried out any personal experiments. He has, however, gleaned from whatever printed matter has come in his way, including cuttings from foreign newspapers. He has also given a summary of the "mechanical and artificial remedies" now in vogue, from which the victim to locusts should obtain much valuable information; and if the reader will accept the volume as a summary of much that has been done under the circumstances, he will realize what this scourge is, and what its extirpation demands. The subject, however, requires to be approached from the entomological rather than from the Biblical standpoint.

A Treatise on the Theory of Screws. By Sir Robert Stawell Ball, LL.D., F.R.S. (Cambridge, University Press.)—Some thirty years ago Sir R. Ball began the investigation of a branch of rigid dynamics which had received scant attention, and the results which he has obtained are among the most valuable contributions that have been made to the science of mechanics in recent times. They relate to two subjects which, though very different in themselves, exhibit precise identity in their mathematical relations. The equilibrium of forces applied to a rigid body requires the satisfying of six conditions; in other words, the most general resultant of a system of forces involves six independent variables. In like manner the most general velocity (or small displacement) of a rigid body is expressed by six independent variables; and it appears on examination that the combination of such velocities or small displacements follows exactly the same laws as the combination of different systems of forces. To state the correspondence in its simplest form, a force along a given line is the analogue of a rotation round this line; a couple or torque in or parallel to a given plane is the analogue of a translation perpendicular to this plane. The simplest way of expressing the most general resultant of a set of forces is to reduce them to a single force acting along a definite line, together with a torque round it; and the simplest way of expressing a small displacement of a rigid body is as a small rotation round a definite line combined with a small translation along it. In both cases Sir R. Ball regards the definite line in question as the axis of a "screw," and the distance between the threads of the screw—or rather this distance divided by 2π —represents in one case the quotient of the couple by the force, and in the other the quotient of the translation by the rotation. In the greater part of his work the application to motion occupies the more prominent place; and the first problem which he attacks is the combination of two small screw motions when their ratio varies while the screws themselves remain fixed. The resultant is, of course, another screw motion; and the locus of the screw on which it takes place is exhibited both by formulae

and pictorially. This locus is called a "cylindroid," and from a geometrical point of view may be described as a ruled surface lying between two parallel planes to which all its generating lines are parallel. The cylindroid depicts more vividly than any other mode of representation the possible motions of a body which has two degrees of freedom. In like manner, when there are three, four, or five fixed screws the combination of small motions upon them gives a "screw-system" of the third, fourth, or fifth order, the cylindroid being a screw-system of the second order. A screw-system of the sixth order is another name for entirely unrestrained motion. Important results are obtained by considering motion on one screw in conjunction with forces on another, especially when the two screws are so related that the algebraic total of work done by the forces on the moving body is zero. In this case the two screws are said to be "reciprocal"; and when we examine the conditions which must be satisfied to give this relation we find them to be symmetrical as regards the two screws, so that the relation of zero work would still exist if the forces and the motion exchanged places. Given any system of the fifth order (another name for one degree of constraint), there is always one definite screw to which all the screws of the system are reciprocal. This enumeration of a few elementary properties may serve to give some idea of the fruitfulness of the field which has been opened up. The rich harvest of results obtained—mainly by Sir R. Ball himself, but partly also by his coadjutors at home and abroad—is embodied in the sumptuous and attractive volume which lies before us. It appears to be eminently clear and well arranged, with one unfortunate exception—the introduction (of five pages), which is needlessly abstruse, seeing that its purpose is merely to remind the reader of matters of common knowledge contained in standard text-books. We fear that it will have the effect of turning back many anxious inquirers.

The four series of Buckland's *Curiosities of Natural History* have just been reissued by Messrs. Macmillan. It would be superfluous to commend these ever-popular volumes, which would make a capital present for boys. It is just books like these which bring out the sudden taste which makes hereafter a distinguished naturalist or antiquary. Buckland was not always sound in his conclusions and observations, but his wide range, his natural way of putting things without anything like pedantry or fine writing, and his obvious enjoyment of the least of his adventures, will keep his book a favourite.

THE PARIS OBSERVATORY.

THE *Rapport Annuel* of the Paris Observatory for 1899 has only just been received. It will be remembered that in the preceding report (which we noticed on August 19th last year) M. Loewy stated that the reorganization of the meridian department had been completed, and that the new system of distribution of work would commence in 1899. The result appears to have answered expectation; but the present report begins by a reference to two special matters of interest. One of these relates to the famous Exhibition of this year, to which the Observatory did not fail to send several contributions, the most interesting being two large photographic images of the moon, taken on a scale which involved singular practical difficulties, when our satellite was respectively near her first and third quarter. The other matter is that of the arrangements for the international conference respecting the completion of the photographic chart of the heavens, which was duly held at Paris from July 19th to 24th in the present year. M. Loewy goes on to say that whilst the revision of the places of the stars in the catalogue of Lalande has been practically

completed, a few gaps only remaining, this has become a point of secondary importance compared with the accurate determination of three of the standard stars in the photographic map, and in this he acknowledges the great assistance derived from the work executed by the Abbé Verschaffel at the observatory of Abbadia. The volume containing the results of the Paris observations obtained in 1897 has been published in a form and on a system (approved by the Council) somewhat different from those followed by its predecessors. The fourth and last part of the great catalogue of stars, comprising the accurate places of all those which were observed at Paris from 1837 to 1881, has—thanks to the persevering efforts of M. Gaillot, Sous-Directeur of the Observatory, aided by those of Bossert—been completed, but, owing to financial difficulties, the printing was not completed in time for presentation to the Exhibition. MM. Renan and Ebert have applied themselves with success to the determination of the latitude and its variation; and the energetic labours of MM. Paul and Prosper Henry on stellar photography have been continued with very satisfactory results. M. Bigourdan has carried on his important investigations on the nebulae, having measured the positions of six thousand of these objects, giving also a detailed description of each. Unfortunately there is even more proof than before of the oscillation caused to great depths by the traffic around the Observatory, and we hope at no distant date that means will be provided for removing it to a site more suitable for delicate work. For the rest we need only remark here that the meridian work has been carried on with all regularity and precision under the new distribution of labour, and the different equatorials have been diligently applied to those classes of observation to which they are specially adapted. M. Loewy also prints a list of the separate publications of the members of the staff, most of which have appeared in the columns of the *Comptes Rendus*. The report before us has, like the preceding, a frontispiece, which gives a reproduction of a beautiful photograph of the moon taken with the great equatorial *coudé* on February 16th, 1899, when she was six days eight hours old, or nearly approaching her first quarter.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES.

IN the British New Guinea Report for 1898-9 (Cd. 3-15), just published by the Colonial Office, there are so many indications of good anthropological work being done that we deeply regret the scant encouragement afforded by the Government to its officials in this matter. This is apparent, not only by the usual foot-note "not printed" attached to the mention of one or two important documents sent home with the report, but by the whole tone of the report itself. There is an idea of suppressed information about it. Expeditions into the interior were made, and the officers have a good deal to say of practical importance. "Interfering with native dancing is rather a weak point with some teachers who do not quite understand the distinction between actions that are contrary to law and actions that are contrary to the views of their mission"; and this hint is followed up by the judicious observation that "a native might be forgiven if, judging by the first steps taken by his civil and ecclesiastical preceptors to improve him, he came to the conclusion that they consisted principally in shutting up accustomed ways and not opening new ones to him, and that the novel views of life presented for his acceptance were not very attractive." These are the conclusions of men who have studied the natives well, and should be impressed upon those engaged in mission work.

The most important trip undertaken by the Government agent was to the west. All the coast and a few of the inland coastal villages were visited. At Karama, one of the villages,

a singular form of oath was noticed. This is the first known instance of a native form of oath. It is apparently but rarely employed, or else natives in previous judicial proceedings had reasons for not making use of it. It is a great pity, therefore, that this interesting bit of native lore was not printed. The Papuan is not a nomadic savage possessed of little but his weapons and his dogs. He regards a portion of the country as the inheritance of his people, and to this little territory he is much attached. This makes all the more interesting the patient study of native dialects which the officials have undertaken. At present it is declared that the evidence thus far obtained about the migrations of the different tribes to their present location is not sufficient. In the case of most of the tribes living near Port Moresby the tradition is that they came from inland, and the history of the inland country seems to support this view. Many interesting facts are adduced of the relationship of the inland to the coast tribes, the latter always fearing the former. Altogether, anthropologists will find this an important contribution to the history of the Papuan people, but all will regret its meagreness, for it is certain that with a little more encouragement from the Government many valuable observations and studies would be placed at the disposal of students at home.

The Sixty-eighth Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland (Cd. 3-14) contains a most useful list of ancient monuments vested in the Commissioners under one or other of their various powers. The list is comprehensive, and our readers will, no doubt, be glad to possess it. Here is a case where Parliament has done for Ireland what has unfortunately been denied to the rest of the United Kingdom. It is true that the Commissioners, in their official ignorance, have committed some very sad blunders by way of restoration, but they are becoming wiser now under the pressure of public opinion, and a reasonable attempt at preservation is taking the place of that reckless disregard of ancient monuments which is characteristic of English ways. There is a description of the repairs carried out during the year, and it is pleasant to note that they are repairs, not restorations. The removal of the destroying ivy and other vegetation from the ruins of Bective Abbey and Clare Abbey was very necessary, and the small amount of actual repairs reported seems to have been only what was necessary to prevent destruction. This is as it should be. At Duleek Priory more seems to have been done, and we are a little uneasy as to the results. At Clonmacnoise, also, we have a suspicion that repairs not quite needful to preservation have been indulged in. But on the whole there is more reason to be hopeful, especially as it is stated in the report that the Commissioners "receive valuable advice and information from the Ancient and National Monuments Committee on the subject of the preservation of prehistoric ruins."

In *Folk-Lore* Mr. N. W. Thomas, of Kiel, suggests that illustrations should be collected of the carved horses' heads, and other similar objects, which ornament the gable ends of the peasants' houses in various countries. The subject was discussed by Peterson in 1860 in the 'Year-Book' of the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein-Lauenburg, vol. iii. In our own country horse-heads are met with in Sussex, a fox at Reigate, a fish near Oswestry, and dragons in various parts. Mr. Thomas has collected many in North Germany; and a series of photographs of such objects would be a useful addition to the Folk-Lore Society's Museum.

The same author also contributes a paper on animal superstitions and totemism. On this subject he appeals for information as to localities in which the badger, boar, eagle, glow-worm, rabbit, sparrow, squirrel, wasp, or any fishes are respected; and wishes to know whether the cormorant, crossbill, partridge, peewit, quail,

redstart, seal, sea-swallow, wagtail, or weevil are killed in any of the following sacrificial ways: by hunting, by striking blindfold (*hahnenschlag*), by killing the first which appears, by torture, by throwing from a precipice, or by fire. He is circulating questions to obtain this information.

An interesting correspondence between Mr. Andrew Lang and Mr. R. R. Marett also appears in *Folk-Lore*. Mr. Lang accepts Mr. Marett's view of awe as the basis of the religious sentiment, having indeed adopted it himself in 1872, but doubts the relevancy of certain of the examples by which Mr. Marett supported it in his paper on 'Pre-Animistic Religion.' The answer is very pertinent—that the attempt at divining wide uniformities by means of the scientific imagination does not exclude the search for limited connexions of cause and effect when particular deities or particular attributes are connected with special institutions.

The Rev. J. S. Gale, a Canadian who has been for eleven years a missionary in Korea, supplies some notes on Hananim, the Korean Great Spirit. His rewards and punishments have no reference to a future life, but are confined to this world. He provides the rice and the rain. "Feeding us well is by favour of Hananim; clothing us well is by favour of wife." His dwelling-place is "above," whatever that may mean—a long way off. He is considered to be just and impartial, and a punisher of injustice. There is nothing that he cannot do—his eyes roll everywhere, like cart-wheels; but he is not supposed to have been the creator of the earth. That came of itself; he only added the details.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Wed. Microscopical, 7½.—Report on the Recent Foraminifera of the Malay Archipelago, Part IX.
—Entomological, 8.
Fri. Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 8.—An Improved Glass Reverser for studying Condensation in Steam-Engine Cylinders, Mr. R. Donkin.

Science Gossip.

MESSRS. LOVELL REEVE & Co. have in preparation a monograph on the Membracidae, a group of homopterous insects, which have not received the attention their peculiar and diverse forms deserve. The author is Mr. George Bowdler Buckton, F.R.S., F.L.S., who will be glad to hear through the publishers from entomologists and others who have specimens which they have reason to believe are as yet unknown to science.

THERE will be an exhibition of slides and models illustrating skin structure by Mr. Frederick W. Watson-Baker, F.R.M.S., at the meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society on the evening of Wednesday next.

THE Foreign Office report on the German colonies for the year ending June, 1899 (Cd. 2-11), notes the fact that a Government grant of 10,000*l.* is made on account of scientific researches in the German colonies for the year 1899. It is probable this amount will be exceeded, while the expenditure for 1898 was nearly 15,000*l.* How soon will the British Government think it necessary to spend money upon scientific researches? The fact that Germany is awake to the importance of investigation of scientific data and that Great Britain, as usual, never thinks of such trifles is of immense significance.

THE feat successfully accomplished of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country secured for Capt. H. H. P. Deasy the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Capt. Deasy, who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin. He left Srinagar in April, 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government, a collector, and a following of servants. The most important work was done

in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand river, where a large tract of previously unexplored country was surveyed. Though this part of the river had previously been crossed at two points by Europeans, the whole course of the river had never been explored, and Capt. Deasy's explorations considerably alter existing maps. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated, including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata, which is calculated to be 24,400 ft. high. Some difficulties of the journey may be appreciated when it is stated that the explorer was twice frost-bitten while surveying in the Pamirs in mid-winter; that in Polu an attempt was made to murder him on his return from the mountains; and that often in climbing (which was sometimes done on a yak) the gradients became so steep that the saddle fell off the animal's back, so that it was necessary to hold on to the beast's tail. It is hardly surprising to hear that Capt. Deasy has written a book which Mr. Fisher Unwin will publish. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experiences of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese, and the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan. The work will be illustrated with maps and photographs.

FINE ARTS

Three Surrey Churches. By Rev. H. R. Ware and P. G. Palmer. (Guildford, Lasham.)

FROM its tasteful presentment, from the excellency of some of its illustrations, and from the exceptional character of the churches described, this book has a distinct value. It is, however, a difficult volume for a critic to notice, as it is of uneven merit, and presents no logical plan. The publisher has collected together within its covers an account of the churches of St. Nicholas, Compton, and St. Mary, Guildford, by the Rev. H. R. Ware; a descriptive record of St. Martha's, Chilworth, by Mr. P. G. Palmer; some notes on St. Catherine's Chapel, Guildford, by Mr. Thackeray Turner; and two essays on the Pilgrims' Way, written respectively by Major-General James and Mr. Palmer.

Mr. Thackeray Turner's contribution, though the briefest, is the most valuable, and it is well illustrated. St. Catherine's Chapel, standing on a hill about a mile out of Guildford, between the river and the Portsmouth road, although a roofless ruin, is not a little remarkable. Its ground plan is a simple parallelogram of about 50 ft. by 20 ft.; the windowframes, buttresses, and other details show it to be of the end of the thirteenth century. The peculiar feature is the number of the doorways to so small a building—there are six entrances, including the one to a bell turret. The west doorway is 6 ft. wide, a great width in proportion to other dimensions. There are also north and south doorways, all part of the original plan. At a later date the two windows over these doorways have been blocked up and filled in with two more doorways. Such doorways—either the original ones or the additional—could never have been planned or required if St. Catherine's had been a chapel for an ordinary congregation. Mr. Turner, after an interesting fashion, supplies the key to this puzzle. Tradition says that the pilgrims going from Winchester to Canterbury were in the habit of visiting the chapel. It must, therefore, have

contained some venerated relic, and with this idea before us we are able, with Mr. Turner's assistance, to realize the meaning of the building. He offers most reasonable explanations of the peculiarities of the different door jambs, of which space prevents us from supplying even a summary. As to the later upper doorways, it is shown that the doorway on the south led into the building, and the doorway on the north out of the building. The supposition that there was a gallery between the two doorways, and that its object was to allow persons to pass through the chapel, seems highly probable. As the pilgrims increased in number this gallery, with outer wooden stairways, was added to enable a greater stream of pilgrims to pass through without undue delay.

The church of St. Nicholas, Compton, well deserves a brief monograph, but Mr. Ware has unduly lengthened his account by adding a good deal of incidental and extraneous matter. Several pages, for instance, are devoted to a somewhat crude summary of the life and influence of St. Thomas of Canterbury, merely because this church is one of scores near the Pilgrims' Way. The highly interesting and peculiar feature of Compton Church is that it possesses an upper and lower chancel. Each of the two stages of this chancel has been designed for altar services, as is proved by the piscina drains. We do not agree with Mr. Ware in thinking that the two chancels are of different dates, and of course he is wrong in surmising that the upper chancel of this parish church was added as "a chapel for monks." At Devizes and at Darenth there are chambers over the chancel, though there is no proof that they had altars. There was also originally a chamber of some size with windows looking into the church in the fine Norman church of Melbourne, Derbyshire, but in that instance there is little doubt that it was used in the same way as at Compton, with one altar over the other.

Against the south wall of the chancel is a kind of penthouse only a few feet square, containing the staircase to the upper chancel, and in its lower stage "the hermit's cell," into which there is a quatrefoil opening from the lower chancel. There is a similar opening in the north wall of the well-known Surrey church of Shere, although the penthouse has been removed. Recently we noticed a like opening on the north side of the chancel of Michaelstow Church in North Cornwall, and obvious traces of a former lean-to building; this instance seems hitherto to have escaped attention. Although Mr. Ware is right in supposing that the quatrefoil opening at Compton was made for the purpose of passing the Host to the inmate of the penthouse, and permitting him to worship at mass, it is a complete fallacy to describe such a person as a hermit, and to say that "hermits or anchorites were practical people serving useful purposes." He actually conjectures that the resident in the Compton penthouse was "the caretaker of the church." If so, and if he could move about as he pleased, why, in the name of all that is reasonable, should he be communicated through a hole in the church's wall? Mr. Ware proceeds to mention a variety of

particulars with regard to bridge hermits and the like which have no possible connexion with these church penthouses. He confuses the hermit and the anchorite. The anchorite was a recluse under solemn vows, never to leave the building (usually a small adjunct to a chancel) in which he was immured. The Compton penthouse was in reality an anchor-hold, as such places were termed.

After this it is not surprising to find it stated of the "low side windows" of Compton Church that

"the tradition that lepers were allowed to look in at these windows in order to join in the services of the Church, and to receive the Sacrament without entering the building, is so universal that there is probably some truth in it."

It would appear that the leper fiction has taken such a hold upon the popular mind that it will die hard. Yet possibly it may be useful to some to say once again that lepers were forbidden access not only to churches, but even to churchyards, that they had a good supply of chapels and priests of their own, and that the extravagant notion with regard to these windows is not a tradition at all, but a modern fallacy started in the early days of the Cambridge Camden Society, and based upon an absurd misreading of a wall painting in Eton Chapel.

Compton Church is specially interesting in various ways, and we advise any one intending to visit it to read Mr. Andrée's succinct and scholarly account in the twelfth volume of the *Proceedings* of the Surrey Archaeological Society, as it is far clearer and more accurate than Mr. Ware's.

Nor can the description of St. Mary's, Guildford, by the same pen, be commended, so far as the letterpress is concerned. Its main attraction is the early tower, but Mr. Ware is not a little at sea when discoursing on Saxon architecture. The central tower of St. Mary's, Guildford, is beyond doubt of pre-Norman workmanship. Not finding any trace left of a Saxon nave west of the tower, Mr. Ware argues that it never existed, and says that Wotton Church is the solitary example of which he has any knowledge of a Saxon church having a tower between the nave and the chancel. Such a notion as this not only shows slight knowledge of our early church architecture, but if correct would quite upset the interesting story of the development of the English style before the Conquest. As Mr. Micklethwaite has so well pointed out, there came about in the latter part of the pre-Norman period of church building a transitional type which united elements from the Italian and the Scottish traditions, and led up to the purely English cross church. So far from there being no churches save one, as Mr. Ware asserts, with an intervening tower, the examples of that character are not only interesting, but numerous. The cross form, with a broad tower in the middle and a slender tower at the west end, was the usual form of the larger churches erected during the latter part of the Saxon period, whilst even in the smaller ones the use of a central tower seems to have been the rule and not the exception. There is historic evidence of a cross church with two towers being built at Ramsey in the year 969. Amongst those which either had or have central towers may

be mentioned the Castle Church, Dover; St. Mary's, Deerhurst; Stanton Lacy, Salop; Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire; Langford, Oxfordshire; and Great Dunham, Norfolk. Even the plan of a tower opening equally on all sides and standing on four piers was reached before the end of Saxon times, as the churches of Stowe in Lindsay and Norton in Durham go to prove.

The church of St. Martha and All Martyrs, Chilworth, is treated of in an interesting fashion by Mr. Palmer. The series of illustrations of its ruined state are of much value. Since its restoration—or rather rebuilding—by Lord Lovaine in 1848 this church, on the highest part of the old Pilgrims' Way from Southampton to Canterbury, has been a well-distinguished feature in the landscape throughout a wide stretch of the surrounding country.

The chapters on the Pilgrims' Way are certainly interesting, but are not up to the standard of modern precise archaeology. To style the masons' marks found on some of the churches near this much frequented track "pilgrims' marks" is rather childish. Quite possibly one or two may have been scratched by some restless or idling pilgrim, in the same way as boys of mediæval England scratched their divisions for "nine men's morris" or similar games in church porches or even more sacred places; but some of the identical stonemasons' devices (adopted for distinguishing their work when paid) that are figured on p. 214 as "pilgrims' marks" we have noted in the narrow stairways of the towers of Lichfield Cathedral Church and on the stones of the long buried keep of Duffield Castle. It is not reasonable to surmise that Canterbury pilgrims were to be found in either.

Fine-Art Gossip.

SIR L. ALMA TADEMA will be represented at the next exhibition of the Royal Academy by a likeness, three-quarters length, life size, full face, of Prof. George Aitchison, R.A. He is seated in a chair covered with crimson velvet, the colour of which is admirably harmonized with his black coat, and appears to be in the act of speaking, while in his eyes is that light of humour his friends know so well, on his lips a quaint smile replete with kindness, and his left hand is partly extended to emphasize and expound the coming "point" of the anecdote that is in his mind. The vivacity of the portrait commands our sympathetic admiration, and the intellectual look of the face loses nothing from being thoroughly faithful. The touch of the painter is freer than usual, though not less firm, and the general execution of the portrait is in harmony with the animation of the design, its vigour, and its completeness. It is a commission given by the Institute of Architects in honour of their late President, and intended for their gallery. Sir Alma intends also to send a charming subject-picture to Burlington House next year. On a long and narrow canvas, say five feet by one foot, the artist has embodied an illustration of the 'Epipsychidion' of Shelley, his motto being the lines:—

Be this our home in life, and when years heap
Their withered hours, like leaves, on our decay,
Let us become the overhanging day.
The living soul of this Elysian Isle,
Conscious, inseparable, one. Meanwhile
We two will rise, and sit, and walk together,
Under the roof of blue Ionian weather,
And wander in the meadows, or ascend
The mossy mountains, where the blue heavens bend
With lightest winds, to touch their paramour;
Or linger, where the pebble-paven shore,
Under the quick faint kisses of the sea
Trembles and sparkles as with ecstasy.

The striking qualities of this work are the intense splendour of Ionian daylight as it floods the sky, the darker sea, and the double tiers of benches of white marble which, rising from a curving marble platform, occupy three-fourths of the scene. Two or three groups of figures are introduced on this belvedere, a structure such as, in antiquity, it was not unusual to erect as a memorial of friends who had departed or been lost at sea. Two persons leaning upon the parapet behind the loftiest bench look together over the sea to the hills of a distant island rising above a barrier of white clouds. The entire design illustrates the pictorial charm of the motto, which indicates that

We two will rise, and sit, and walk together,
Under the roof of blue Ionian weather.

As to the draughtsmanship, the classic grace of the figures, the elegant simplicity of their movements, the deep hues of their robes, the perfection of the painting of the marble, and the way in which the parallelism of the curving benches is rendered are worthy of the painter. Than this there is nothing more to be said.

MESSES. AGNEW & SONS intend to open on the 10th prox., at their Gallery in Old Bond Street, an exhibition of pictures by living English artists.

At a general assembly of the Royal Society of British Artists, held on Tuesday evening, the following were elected members: Messrs. J. F. Darley, F. E. Foottet, J. Eyre Macklin, W. Tatton White, and F. Whitehead.

THE official report of M. Bonnat to the French Government, anent the sums paid for works of fine art added to the national museums, states that the price given for the famous Ingres, now in the Louvre, 'La Grande Odalisque,' was 60,000 francs; 15,000 francs was paid for a bust of Lemoyne by Pajou; an equal sum for a pastel of Latour by Lemoyne; and 26,250 francs for a panel by Borgonone.

MUSIC

THE WEEK.

THE BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

THE performance of Mr. Coleridge-Taylor's scenes from 'The Song of Hiawatha' was, as we mentioned last week, good, the chorus particularly distinguishing itself; and yet one felt at times a certain want of elasticity, of simplicity, also of character, in the rendering. Owing, we believe, to the large chorus and large orchestra, this tone-picture, with its light touches of humour, its deep, yet quiet pathos, and its delicate orchestration, seemed, on the whole, set in too large a frame. Then, as to the interpretation, Dr. Richter saw to it that everything was done decently and in order, but we occasionally missed the *rubato* treatment of the music, or some particular shade of accent or mark of expression, which only a conductor able to enter thoroughly into the meaning and spirit of every word could supply. Composers are rarely the best conductors of their own works, yet in this special instance we believe Mr. Coleridge-Taylor ought to have wielded the *baton*. The first and second parts of 'Hiawatha' have met with just praise from the critics, and have been everywhere received with enthusiasm by the public. Although admitting that the third part contains much fine music, we are still of opinion that the interest and the sympathy of the listener are exhausted after the death of Minnehaha and the lament of Hiawatha. All the heart of the latter is buried, so he declares, in the grave of his beloved one,

and from that moment Hiawatha is but the shadow of a man.

The performance of two works by native composers on the morning and evening of the same day was an event of no small importance. 'The Dream of Gerontius' and 'The Song of Hiawatha' strongly differ in the nature of their poems, the one dealing with the terrors and trials of a future life, while the other is principally concerned with human joys and human sorrows; also in their musical form, thus preventing direct comparison. 'Gerontius,' solemn throughout, casts a mystic spell over us; 'Hiawatha' appeals directly to our feelings, but in soft and, even in its saddest moments, tender manner. The one—at any rate in its broad outline—impresses us as reality, the other as fiction.

On Thursday morning last week Bach's 'Matthew' Passion was performed. The work is certainly out of place in a concert hall, and seeing that the festival programmes already contained so much sacred music, something offering contrast might well have been substituted. The performance was at times very impressive. The solo vocalists were Miss Palliser, Miss Ada Crossley, and Messrs. Lloyd, Plunket Greene, David Bispham, and Andrew Black, who were more or less satisfactory. Dr. Richter, however, seems to have allowed them to interpret the *appoggiature* every one to his own way, instead of securing a uniform reading. And why was there no *viola da gamba*? The singing of the choir in many of the chorales was smooth and of beautiful quality.

In the evening the programme commenced with Dvorák's 'The Spectre's Bride,' originally produced at Birmingham in 1885 under the composer's direction. The weird poem, the dramatic character of the music, and the wonderfully clever and picturesque, and at times vivid orchestration, all combine to produce a very striking effect. And yet when the novelty has worn off, it must be confessed that the music *per se* is not remarkable for originality. As a *genre* piece, 'The Spectre's Bride' must, however, claim a high place. Madame Albani, who was in the original cast, sang with fervour and effect; Mr. Ben Davies, who was in good voice, had charge of the tenor music; Mr. Bispham was a forcible narrator. The chorus was heard to great advantage, and the band played admirably. The second part of the concert opened with Berlioz's seldom heard overture 'King Lear,' an early work written by the composer when at Rome. Brilliant orchestration and a splendid performance helped to make one forget that the musical contents are of comparatively small value. Miss Brema's delivery of the closing scene from the 'Götterdämmerung' was highly dramatic, and the orchestral playing excellent, and yet nothing will reconcile us to a concert performance of this noble ending of the 'Ring.' The public, however, seem to enjoy it. The programme ended with Glazunov's Sixth Symphony.

On Friday morning, the last day of the festival, came Brahms's 'German Requiem,' in which the choir, though the intonation was not always perfect, distinguished itself. Miss Evangeline Florence and Mr. Bispham were sympathetic soloists. There followed four movements from a Byrd Mass. Our great

composer wrote in all three masses, respectively for three, four, and five voices. Of the first there are manuscript copies, but there are no extant copies of the second, and only one of the third, from which were selected the Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei sung on this occasion. The quaint movements sounded strange. Here again there was music out of its proper surroundings, and placed, moreover, between two modern works, the Brahms 'Requiem' and the 'Parsifal' Prelude, so that it was difficult to throw oneself into the proper frame of mind for listening to it. The solo parts were smoothly sung by Miss E. Florence, Miss A. Crossley, and Messrs. Ben Davies, W. Green, and Bispham. The singing of the choir was good. The concert ended magnificently with Beethoven's Symphony in A.

The festival finished with 'The Messiah,' and although some of the choral singing was fine—which, seeing how familiar the work must be by this time, was not surprising—and although the soloists, Madame Albani, Miss Clara Butt, and Messrs. Ben Davies and Andrew Black, were good, the performance was by no means satisfactory. Some of the *tempi* were hurried, some dragged, and moreover at one moment there was a short, but sharp contest between one of the soloists and the conductor as to the rate at which the music should be taken, victory remaining with the vocalist. There had been apparently no thorough rehearsal with band and chorus, and it was only due to Dr. Richter's steadiness and skill that there was no breakdown. He is certainly not in sympathy with the work; it was a labour to him, but not one of love.

The name of Mr. Stockley must be mentioned, for after the death of Dr. Swinnerton Heap he came forward again to render valuable service as chorus master, a post which he had already occupied with distinction for nearly forty years. The excellent organ playing during the week by Mr. C. W. Perkins also deserves record.

Musical Gossip.

AN interesting concert was given at the Steinway Hall the week before last by Miss Hilda Wilson and Mr. H. Lane. Songs and duets were sung by these vocalists with great skill and taste, some songs composed by the lady displaying good feeling and promise of better things. Mrs. Henry J. Wood sang some characteristic Russian songs with marked ability, and in these she was admirably accompanied by Mr. Wood. Mr. Lane Wilson also interpreted Russian and other songs with artistic success.

THE first meeting this season of the Mozart Society took place at the Portman Rooms on Thursday afternoon. A careful performance of Mozart's String Quartet in A major was given by Mr. L. Szczepanowski, Miss Amy Armitage, Mlle. C. A. Brouil, and Mr. R. V. Tabb; and Herr J. H. Bonawitz for his pianoforte solo chose Beethoven's sonata (Op. 81A) 'Les Adieux, l'Absence, et le Retour.' Violin and cello pieces were agreeably handled by Mr. Szczepanowski and Mr. Tabb, and vocal relief was supplied by Miss Margaret Hoare, Miss Etta Bill, and Mr. George S. Aspinall.

THE programme of the twenty-third season of the Highbury Philharmonic Society has just been issued. There will be four concerts on the following dates: November 27th, January 22nd, March 12th, and April 30th. At the first Mr. Corder's 'The Sword of Argantyr,'

produced at Leeds in 1889, will be performed for the first time in London. The novelty at the second will be a part-song entitled 'A Love Symphony,' by Mr. Percy Pitt; while at the third Mr. Horatio Parker's 'A Wanderer's Psalm' is announced as a first London performance. Mr. G. H. Betjemann will, as usual, be the conductor.

Mr. NEWMAN announces three Ysaye Concerts at Queen's Hall. The first and second, on November 14th and 19th, will be orchestral and under the conductorship of M. Ysaye; the third, in the evening, will be a violin recital, and this will be the great artist's last appearance in London this season.

AN historical lecture and recital will be given at the Crystal Palace next Wednesday afternoon by Mr. Edgar F. Jacques and Herr J. H. Bonawitz.

The Purcell Operatic Society, which produced Purcell's 'Dido and Eneas' at the Hampstead Conservatoire last May, proposes to give in the autumn this opera, also Handel's 'Acis and Galatea,' at a West-End theatre.

Mr. DONALD FRANCIS TOVEY announces four concerts of chamber music at St. James's Hall on Thursdays, November 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd (three afternoons and one evening). The programmes will include standard chamber music for pianoforte with wind or strings, also compositions (a Pianoforte Trio and Quintet and a Sonata for pianoforte and violin) by Mr. Tovey. The programmes, by no means hackneyed, also include two Bach Cantatas (for soprano solo) and Schubert's long, but wonderfully fine song 'Viola.'

ON October 10th the veteran Maestro Verdi celebrated the eighty-eighth anniversary of his birth. The *Milan Gazzetta Musicale* of October 4th states that he recently left Milan, where, with almost juvenile activity, he had been attending to matters concerning the charitable institution which he has founded there, and retired to his peaceful villa of Sant' Agata.

THE death is announced of Kalmán Balazs, the famous Hungarian conductor (*primás*). He commenced his career as the favourite musician of M. Koloman Tisza, afterwards President of the Council of Ministers, and in 1879 followed his patron to Budapest, where he soon became popular. With his orchestra he visited Paris, Berlin, Moscow, and London, and went twice to America.

THE death is announced of Gustav Arnold, for many years musical director at Lucerne. He was an excellent pianist, and is said to have been one of the first to play all the Beethoven sonatas in public.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

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|--------|---|
| SUN. | Sunday Society's Concert, 3.30, Queen's Hall. |
| MON. | National Sunday League Concert, 7, Queen's Hall. |
| TUES. | Promenade Concert, 8, Queen's Hall. |
| WED. | Promenade Concert, 8, Queen's Hall. |
| THURS. | Mozart Society, 5, the Portman Rooms. |
| | Reisenauer's Pianoforte Recital, 5, St. James's Hall. |
| | Patti Concert, 8, Albert Hall. |
| | Promenade Concert, 8, Queen's Hall. |
| FRI. | Promenade Concert, 8, Queen's Hall. |
| SAT. | Mr. Robert Newman's Queen's Hall Orchestra, 3.30, Crystal Palace. |
| | Promenade Concert, 8, Queen's Hall. |

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

LYCEUM.—'For Auld Lang Syne,' a Play in Four Acts. By Seymour Hicks and F. G. Latham.

WYNDHAM'S.—'Mrs. Dane's Defence,' a Play in Four Acts. By Henry Arthur Jones.

THE new play of Messrs. Hicks and Latham, which has strayed from the Adelphi into the Lyceum, belongs to the most commonplace and conventional form of melodrama, and is poor in its class. Its worst faults are that it is long and depressing, but it also errs in being arbitrary and inconclusive. That attempts would be made

to turn to stage account the incidents of the war from which we are issuing, and to benefit by the wave of sentiment beneath which the playgoing public is submerged, was to be expected. Our authors were accordingly justified in depicting scenes of combat between Highlanders and Boers, and in exhibiting the prowess of combatants and the endurance of non-combatants during the siege of a place slightly disguised as Camberley. The action is, however, confused at the outset, and unconvincing at the close. We know not during the early scenes why anything is as it is. Such promise of interest as is given at the end of the first act fades and dies. When an English officer, rather than accept a short shrift and a dozen bullets in place of a long rope, plays the coward and stoops to an act of incredible baseness, we have a certain measure of compassion for him, such as we feel for Hector in 'The Fair Maid of Perth.' Instead, however, of showing penitence for the crime into which he has been driven, Capt. Carey becomes at once the typical villain of melodrama, and before he commits suicide has exhausted the possibilities of stage crime. Weak as is the main interest, the comic underplot is even weaker. It is depressing to see such a stage as the Lyceum occupied with work so tawdry. Most of the parts were well played. Mr. Mollison as the murderer displayed remarkable intensity, and Mr. Abingdon in the opening scene gave a striking picture of the subjugation by cowardice of a nature then not wholly vile. Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. J. H. Barnes, Miss Lily Hanbury, Miss Tilbury, and Miss Fanny Brough made what they could out of unpromising materials.

In following up with 'Mrs. Dane's Defence' 'The Lackey's Carnival' Mr. Jones seems to have said with Hamlet, "I'll have grounds more relative than this." Such he has obtained, and the later work is in all respects the more sympathetic and the more conclusive. As regards construction, dialogue, and characterization it is also better, and its third act is more essentially dramatic than anything its author has recently given. Mr. Jones's feud with the fair sex is not over, and it would be easy to extract from 'Mrs. Dane's Defence' a satire of woman almost as scathing as that in 'Samson Agonistes.' Scarcely to be regarded as a problem play, 'Mrs. Dane's Defence' deals only, or at least mainly, with love youthful and, in a sense, innocent. The principal female character has, it is true, a past. This concerns directly no one except the youth who seeks to make her his wife, and who, in his infatuation, is willing to overlook anything and everything. Though presenting herself as a widow and possessing an infant, of whom nothing is heard until near the conclusion, Lucy Dane, or, as she should really be called, Felicia Hindemarsch, has never been married. She has, on the contrary, been the subject of a terrible scandal in Vienna, and has fancied, the scene being so remote, that she may live it down. Some wind of her adventure has reached the quiet country town of Sunningwater, whereat she has fixed her quarters, and Mrs. Bulsom-Porter, a sour and, be it added, aggrieved matron, who resents the influence exercised over masculine humanity by a new-comer, prettier and more attrac-

tive than a woman with self-respect has any right to be, determines that the scandal of which she has heard something shall not die for want of nourishment. A long war is accordingly waged between a woman malignant, unscrupulous, jealous, and revengeful, and another young, beautiful, amorous, and with her back against the wall. Sufficiently interesting and stimulating is the duel. In this victory favours the weaker side. The honours of war remain with Mrs. Dane, whose character, so far as regards the outside public, is vindicated, while her enemy—every one of whose charges is, in fact, proved up to the hilt—has to sign an apology as the inventor of a cruel scandal. With the fruits of victory it is otherwise. Not one of these is Mrs. Dane allowed to gather. She has to leave the village she has selected as her home, has to give up all thought of the man she loves, and has to see submerged and washed away the pretty edifice of falsehood she has erected. The agent in this destructive process has been Sir Daniel (Mr. Justice) Carteret, a keen-witted lawyer, who, with the most benevolent motives, has undertaken her defence. His mission, self imposed, is to prove the truth of the plausible story she narrates. Under his keen glance the airy fabric disappears, and the woman, cowed and humiliated, with every shred of character blown to the winds, has to appeal for mercy. The scenes in which these processes are carried out are some of the strongest in the modern drama. They were superbly interpreted by Mr. Wyndham, who has done nothing better and little that is equally good. Miss Lena Ashwell as the heroine revealed some eminent gifts. It is difficult to think of an actress who could have played with so much breadth and power so difficult a part. Miss Mary Moore, Mr. Bishop, and Mr. Garden were seen to advantage, and piece and performance are a credit to the English stage.

Dramatic Gossip.

'REALISM,' by Mrs. Madeleine Lucette Ryley, given on the 4th inst. at the Garrick, is an ingenious comedietta, in which the author reappears on the stage, supported by Mr. James Erskine and Mr. Henry Vibart. The husband of a dramatist objects to a termination she has devised as being "unreal." Her practical answer is to place him in the position devised for her hero and prove to him that he himself commits the very actions he denounces. Mrs. Ryley has comic gifts both as an actress and as a writer.

THURSDAY next will witness at the Criterion the first performance of Capt. Marshall's new comedy 'The Noble Lord,' the three acts of which are called after pieces now running, 'The Price of Peace,' 'A Debt of Honour,' and 'The Wedding Guest.'

A DRAMATIC adaptation of 'Red Pottage,' by the author and Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, has been given for copyright purposes at the St. James's Theatre.

THE Japanese company, now on its return from Paris, will reappear on the 22nd inst. at the Coronet Theatre, the scene of its first successful experiment.

THE German dramatic company began on the 4th inst. at St. George's Hall with Goethe's 'Iphigenia in Tauris' a series of performances, which have already included Ibsen's 'Nora'

and Schiller's 'Robbers.' 'Ghosts' was announced, but has been stopped by the censor. The company is moderately strong.

MISS MABEL TERRY LEWIS now plays at the Prince of Wales's the part of Barbara Quinton in 'English Nell,' first taken by Miss Lily Hanbury.

THE part of Paquita in 'Self and Lady,' now running at the Vaudeville, vacated by Miss Fanny Brough, who has been engaged at the Lyceum, is played by Miss Adrienne Dairolles, a clever actress, who is welcomed back on to the stage which she had temporarily quitted.

THE Haymarket closes to-night, to reopen on Tuesday with 'The School for Scandal,' in which Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Winifred Emery, and the regular company will reappear.

STRANGE titles are in fashion. Amongst these must be counted 'The Mummy and the Humming-Bird,' which is the name of a piece by Mr. Isaac Henderson accepted by Mr. Wyndham.

A FARCE by Mr. Eille Norwood will be the next novelty at the Strand Theatre when such is required.

MRS. LANGTRY is said to have taken the Imperial Theatre, Westminster, a house which in 1878-80 under the management of Miss Marie Litton enjoyed considerable patronage and reputation. She will open it as Marie Antoinette.

MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD's play 'The Likeness of the Night' will be published in book form by Messrs. A. & C. Black, so that the public will have full assistance in criticizing the dialogue which they hear at the St. James's Theatre. 'The Likeness of the Night' is to be played at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, on the 18th.

MR. E. H. SOTHERN has appeared at the Garden Theatre, New York, as Hamlet.

THE following letter by Prof. Albert H. Smyth, the well-known Shakespearean scholar, appeared with the accompanying comment in the New York Tribune. The leaflet to which reference is made, a great portion of which had previously been quoted, was issued as a "souvenir" of the performance of 'Pericles' at Stratford-on-Avon. Some explanation seems due to the supporters of the Stratford-on-Avon performances as well as to Prof. Smyth:—

A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR,—I was interested yesterday in the article on p. 10 of the Tribune on 'Pericles, Prince of Tyre.' The leaflet "collated" by John Coleman, which you reprint in part, I have not seen. But I am struck by the fact that, although it is said to be "collated from various sources," and although you declare that you "reprint the bulk of its contents," yet all that is given (with the exception of fifteen lines) is taken, verbatim for the most part, but with occasional slight change of phrase, from my recently published book, 'Shakespeare's Pericles and Apollonius of Tyre.'

I should like to know if Mr. Coleman in his "leaflet" gives credit to the author, and also from what other source he has derived his information, for no other sources appear in your quotations.

If this matter has been published without any acknowledgment of the "collator's" debt, I shall be pleased to send you a copy of my work (published by the American Philosophical Society), that you may see the parallelism.

ALBERT H. SMYTH.

Radnor, Penn., July 12, 1900.

[Mr. John Coleman's playbill distributed at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre on the occasion of the performance of his version of 'Pericles' gave no credit to anybody for anything. Its contents appear to have been "lifted" almost bodily from Prof. Smyth's book. Mr. Coleman is an old actor, and is the author of a 'Life of Samuel Phelps,' and his experience of authorship might well have made him more considerate of the rights of other scholars.—*Ed. Tribune.*]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. G. R. F.—G. R.—C. A. W.—F. T.—P. H.—R. B. S.—T. F. V.—received.

T. M. J.—Dr. Stevenson's translation of 'Ten Hymns of Synesius' was printed for private circulation in 1895.

F. M.—Decision unchanged.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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